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April 21, 2025

**Senate Bill 812: Oregon's Landowner Preference Program**

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, members of the committee:

Oregon Farm Bureau supports Senate Bill 812 as it makes the Landowner Preference (LOP) Program permanent. OFB is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing more than 6,500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

Oregon's agricultural producers and private landowners play a vital role in sustaining the state's wildlife populations. The LOP program, established in 1981, is a crucial recognition of this stewardship. It provides landowners with a limited and well-regulated opportunity to receive hunting tags which can help manage wildlife populations and reduce damage to crops, fences, and water infrastructure.

The program balances landowner needs with responsible wildlife management. Importantly, SB 812 comes with no fiscal or revenue impact to the state and received unanimous bipartisan support in the Senate. This reflects the broad recognition of the LOP program's value in both the agricultural and conservation communities.

Oregon Farm Bureau believes the LOP program recognizes the quality wildlife habitat provided by private landowners which is why we urge the committee to pass SB 812. Additionally, we are supportive of landowners having the ability to designate tags to non-family members to be used on their property. Oregon's private landowners are essential partners in conservation, and this bill appropriately recognizes their contributions.

Thank you.

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