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February 19, 2026

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Oregon Legislative Assembly

RE: Concerns Related to SB 1586

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB), thank you for the opportunity to convey our perspective on SB 1586 and the -4 amendment. We appreciate the unique disposition of the land area in question both from an agricultural production standpoint and its role as a focal point in an extended debate on land use public policy in Oregon.

OFB is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing over 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.

OFB recognizes that economic development is vital to Oregon's economy, and we are aligned with the prevailing view that the state should be more business friendly and hospitable to economic investment. Consequently, our comments today are principally focused on the land use elements of the original bill and -4 amendment and the need to protect Oregon's limited agricultural land base for the purpose of agricultural production.

From OFB's perspective on land use, the land use provisions of SB 1586 function to move viable farmland through reserve and urban growth boundary treatment by statute and then require local planning and zoning actions intended to enable industrial development. Oregon's agricultural land is finite. When farmland is converted to urban and industrial uses, it is rarely returned to production, and the long-term impacts extend beyond the footprint of the initial designation.

While acknowledging prior zoning actions that occurred outside of the established land use process, OFB emphasizes the need to vigorously protect agricultural and forestry

lands, regardless of zoning designation. SB 1586's land use approach continues a pattern of historical circumvention of established land use protocols related to this specific parcel—in this case, setting outcomes in statute and then compelling local plan and code amendments—which raises substantial concerns that the state is effectively deciding land conversion first and asking the local land use system to implement it afterward. OFB is concerned that this approach perpetuates an approach that undermines the integrity of Oregon's land use planning process.

To reiterate, OFB is not opposing economic development goals. We are asking the Legislature to pursue those goals in a way that does not rely on converting scarce farmland or weakening the protections that keep agricultural land in agricultural use. OFB's position is grounded in the principles that farmland should be protected and that UGB and reserve decisions must not be made in a manner that reduces established safeguards. For these reasons, OFB respectfully asks the committee to reject SB 1586 and the -4 amendment, or revise the relevant land use sections to ensure Oregon's limited farmland remains preserved for agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan J. Krabill', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan J. Krabill
Oregon Farm Bureau