



Locally Grown
and
GROWING STRONG

Testimony on HB 4026 -1
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
House Committee on Rules
February 21, 2024

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Kropf and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of our nearly 6,600 family farm and ranch members across the state of Oregon. Our members produce over 220 commodities found in Oregon and incorporate varying agricultural techniques and management practices in the cultivation of Oregon's agricultural lands.

OFB determines our positions on legislation with guidance from our Policy Book that is adopted by the OFB House of Delegates each year. This grass roots process is at the heart of our organization and directs OFB's engagement on issues in the Capitol, with local governments and state agencies. In our policy book, OFB has policy guiding our support of the initiative process. The policy states: "We support the initiative and referendum process that has been part of the Oregon Constitution since the turn of the century." It goes on to say that we are concerned in recent times it is being misused and then lays out some suggested requirements that could "fix" the misuse, like a prohibition on paid signature gathers.

The policy does not speak to when and under what circumstances the initiative petition should or should not be used. As such, OFB is not commenting today on the use of the initiative petition process for local government determinations under ORS 197.626. OFB is focusing our comments on supporting the initiative petition process generally. As such, it is important to OFB that any potential legislation on this issue avoids undermining the lawful use of the referendum process and at the same time reinforces OFB's support for Oregon's comprehensive land use system and the processes that serve to insure robust public input and engagement before any UGB expansion takes place.

Thank you for your time.

Please email lauren@oregonfb.org with any questions related to these comments.