



February 10, 2026

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon Legislative Assembly

RE: Support for SB 1561

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) appreciates the effort reflected in SB 1578 to respond to real housing needs in rural Oregon, including the desire to create options that can help families remain on the land across generations and encourage operational continuity on our farms and ranches. We also recognize that the bill pursues two distinct goals: creating a pathway for new rural residential development and expanding square footage flexibility for certain additional dwelling units (ADUs).

OFB's primary concern is that the rural residential development provisions would increase pressure on Oregon's limited agricultural land base. Even when new development is capped, authorizing additional rural residential rezoning outside urban growth boundaries can fragment working landscapes, escalate land values and speculation, and intensify conflicts between residential uses and accepted farm and ranch practices. Over time, these pressures can make it more difficult to maintain land in production, plan for the future of an operation, and transition farms and ranches to the next generation. OFB supports land use planning that keeps working lands working and therefore is opposed to removing economically productive farm and forest land from farm and forest zones.

At the same time, Oregon Farm Bureau is neutral on the bill's approach to expanding square footage limits for certain ADUs. We see the practical value of flexibility that can support multi-generational farm and ranch families—whether to house an aging parent, an adult child returning to the operation, or a caregiver. In many rural communities, housing availability is constrained, and tools that help families stay together on working operations can support continuity, succession planning, and stability in the agricultural workforce.

In summary, while we acknowledge the bill's two distinct objectives and appreciate the intent to address rural housing needs, Oregon Farm Bureau must express concern that the rural residential development provisions will add new and lasting pressure on agricultural lands and increase the likelihood of conflict with ongoing farm and ranch operations. For these reasons, OFB respectfully opposes SB 1578 as drafted, while remaining neutral on the ADU square footage provisions and encouraging continued work that supports farm and ranch family continuity without undermining Oregon's agricultural land base.

Sincerely,



Ryan J. Krabill
Oregon Farm Bureau