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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:

On behalf of the Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB), we respectfully submit testimony in support of SB 1561. This measure creates a clear, timely path for property owners to restore or replace a dwelling that was lost to natural or other involuntary causes. When a home is destroyed by wildfire, flood, or other tragedy, families need certainty and a workable process to rebuild without unnecessary delay.

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.

Oregon's land use system and farm and forest protections are essential. They help conserve working lands, reduce conflicts, and encourage the long-term viability of agriculture and forestry. SB 1561 honors those protections by focusing narrowly on replacement of an existing dwelling, rather than opening the door to new rural residential development.

At the same time, the tragic loss of a dwelling should not be warped into an opportunity to create more land use restrictions. Rebuilding after an involuntary loss is not a policy debate about whether a home should exist in the first place—it is a recovery effort. SB 1561 recognizes that distinction and ensures that the process stays focused on restoration, not re-litigation.

For these reasons, Oregon Farm Bureau supports SB 1561.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan J. Krabill".

Ryan J. Krabill
Oregon Farm Bureau