



Locally Grown
and
GROWING STRONG

Senate Committee on Housing and Development

OFB Testimony on HB 3218A

April 19, 2021

Chair Jama, members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 3218A. By way of background, the Oregon Farm Bureau is the state's largest agricultural trade association representing nearly 7,000 farm and ranch families across the state.

Whether it is through their careers, volunteer opportunities, or responsibilities as rural landowners, Oregon's farmers and ranchers frequently interact with wildfire on the landscape. Rural Oregonians were severely impacted by the unprecedented wildfires that occurred over Labor Day weekend. Many OFB members were on the front lines in their communities, evacuating and caring for their employees, neighbors, animals, and friends who were in danger. Those who lost homes across the state were largely members of the agricultural community, including over a hundred agricultural employees whose homes were decimated by the Almeda Fire. In sum, Oregon's farmers and ranchers fully support the state's efforts related to wildfire recovery.

OFB supports HB 3218A, as it will provide important shelter opportunities for those Oregonians who lost their homes during this year's wildfire season, but contains necessary sideboards to ensure that these options will not cause unintended consequences within our land use planning system. For these reasons OFB urges your support of HB 3218A. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

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