



## STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

June 13, 2019

### Comments on Climate Change Policy Considerations

Chair Raymond and Members of the Board:

The undersigned organizations write in support of the Oregon State Board of Agriculture purposed resolution on Climate Change Policy Considerations dated May 31, 2019. We recognize that agriculture is susceptible to changes in precipitation patterns, changes in temperatures that impact crops, water strains, and the effects climate have on production. Should the elected members of the Oregon Legislature or the United State Congress pass policies related to carbon, greenhouse emission, or climate change, we hope they consider the policy recommendations set forward by the Oregon State Board of Agriculture.

We agree that any policy must strive to maintain a healthy agricultural economy which encompasses the entire supply chain and value-added products. The impacts on the agriculture economy can be economically suppressing. Raising fuel costs, high-cost compliance, and losing market access are all concerns we repetitively raise. The resolution supports exempting farm related fuels, providing technical assistance, and protecting our trade exposed industries. These recommendations are critical for any public policy proposals to consider. We also encourage the Board to consider recognizing that the costs associated with related agricultural transportation must also be considered in developing climate policy; having strong on-farm protections is worth little if we cannot afford to get our goods to market.

When such policies have and are currently being considered, our organizations have requested that local agriculture's positive sequestration be a recognized benefit. Working lands are a positive gain for the economy and environment. We agree with the recommendations that any funding programs recognize the diversity in Oregon's commodities, production methods, farm size, and changing and evolving technologies and strategies used. Incentive programs ought to simultaneously create climate resiliency, promote agricultural sequestration, and promote a healthy natural resource economy.

The Climate Change Policy Considerations resolution establishes recommendations any elected official must consider for any carbon, greenhouse emission, or climate change policy. Oregon's 225 different crops are grown in very different and dynamic regions around the state. It is imperative that we support the health and continuation of our diversity and economic prosperity. Together we support the Oregon State Board of Agriculture purposed resolution on Climate Change Policy Considerations.