



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Anne Marie Moss, annemarie@oregonfb.org, 503.399.1701

Oregon Farm Bureau Praises Trump's WOTUS Action

SALEM, OREGON, February 28, 2017 – The following may be attributed to Oregon Farm Bureau Federation President Barry Bushue:

“We applaud President Trump for listening to thousands of farmers and ranchers around the nation when he signed an executive order today telling the Environmental Protection Agency to ditch the onerous Waters of the U.S. rule.

“President Trump’s order reaffirms both a Supreme Court decision and Congressional action that had already made it very clear to EPA that WOTUS was far beyond the lawful bounds of the Clean Water Act. This was a case of extreme federal overreach by EPA to the detriment of America’s farm and ranch families.

“The WOTUS rule would’ve expanded federal government control over private property, including ditches, ephemerals, small ponds, and even dry farmland. Farmers and ranchers would’ve had to apply for a costly permit to do even basic work on their land or be at risk for enormous fines and lawsuits.

“Farm Bureau took the lead on fighting WOTUS, and we thank the hundreds of Oregon Farm Bureau members who met with federal lawmakers, spoke with agency representatives, wrote letters, emailed, and made calls to explain how this rule would have hurt their family businesses.

“Every day farmers and ranchers work very hard to conserve water and protect water quality because their livelihood depends on it, and it’s the right thing to do. The EPA’s attempt at jurisdictional overreach would have been devastating to family agriculture in Oregon. We thank the Trump administration for listening to and respecting rural voices on this critical issue.”

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* Note to Editors: “Farm Bureau” is a registered trademark; please capitalize in all cases.

The state’s largest general farm organization, Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is a grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing the interests of the state’s farmers and ranchers in the public and policymaking arenas. First established in Oregon in 1919, Farm Bureau is organized in all 36 counties and has 7,000 member families that are professionally engaged in agriculture.

Oregon Farm Bureau President Barry Bushue is a third-generation farmer raising a variety of vegetables and berries at a nearly century-old farm near Boring, Oregon. He is OFB's 15th president.