

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

Action:	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, Gilliam, Krieger, Roblan, Schaufler, VanOrman, Wingard, Clem
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Changes membership composition of Oregon Wheat Commission (Commission). Authorizes Commission to create up to two additional voting members on Commission for representatives of wheat industry and to eliminate public member position in association with refunds of assessment. Changes processes for appointing and removing members. Requires nonpublic members of Commission to have been actually engaged in growing wheat for previous five years. Instructs Director of Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to make all applications for appointment to Commission available to wheat grower organizations and to take into consideration rankings and recommendations made by wheat grower organizations prior to making appointments to Commission. Requires public hearing and contested case hearing prior to removal of a Commission member by ODA's Director, unless waived by member.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History and function of Wheat Commission; ODA oversight
- Assessment monies used to fund research, market development, and public education

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 1947, the Oregon Wheat Commission was created to promote Pacific Northwest wheat in overseas markets and to support research laboratories to develop varieties and enhance quality, production, and increase yields. The Commission's work is supported by a tax deducted at the first point of sale. The 2007-2009 budget amounts to over \$1 million. The Commission invests the assessment funds in international market development programs to provide market maintenance, advocacy of food aid programs and crisis management efforts in partnership with U.S. Wheat Associates, the Wheat Marketing Center and trade policy organizations. Also, the Commission evaluates and funds research proposals from all qualified organizations, including Oregon State University. The Commission, with offices in Portland, continues to operate under the Oregon Department of Agriculture, funded by wheat growers and guided by five wheat farmers and one public member. The Commission restructuring under Senate Bill 639A represents agreement between ODA and the Oregon Wheat Growers League.