



**OREGON
ASSOCIATION OF
NURSERIES**

**Testimony before the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Senate Bill 200
Oregon Association of Nurseries
February 13, 2013**

Oregon Association of Nurseries supports Senate Bill 200, which makes an important common sense change to Oregon's water permitting statutes.

Oregon nursery industry background

The nursery and greenhouse industry is the state's largest agricultural sector. Oregon's nursery growers ship their products throughout the country, with over half reaching markets east of the Mississippi River. Nursery association members represent wholesale and Christmas tree growers, retailers and greenhouse operations.

Need for SB 200

Our members require permits from the Oregon Water Resources Department in order to irrigate their crops and conduct their operations. Currently, the Department does not have the legal authority to split a permit if the underlying land is owned by different parties. This makes it impossible for one landowner to move forward to obtain a permanent water right certificate if other landowners under the permit are not ready or able to move ahead.

Without a permanent water right certificate, our members have difficulties buying and selling property, obtaining financing, and planning and investing for the future. By passing SB 200, you will help the state's economy by removing a barrier that prevents agricultural landowners from obtaining the certainty they need to make investments and generate new income for our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the support of the nursery and greenhouse industry for SB 200.