



OREGON TALL FESCUE COMMISSION

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February 25, 2013

The Honorable Chris Edwards and Ben Unger, Co-Chairs
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE, 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Edwards and Representative Unger:

On behalf of Oregon's tall fescue producers and Oregon's grass seed industry, I am writing to ask your support of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's proposed budget.

Foreign trade is critical to the grass seed industry and this trade is the most significant reason our industry was able to endure the recent National recession that started in 2008. While global markets are a key there is a great deal of work to be done, especially with emerging markets like China and Asia.

Grass seed is a top contributor to Oregon's overall Ag economy and we recognize that our weaknesses frequently center on pests and disease. These are limiting factors that impact our ability to produce this commodity, market it globally and return export dollars to Oregon's economy.

Private industry can't do it alone; we absolutely need government partners to play their role in making trade possible. In this case, we need a strong Oregon Department of Agriculture and the programs they provide; regulatory, science, trade and marketing.

One of the strongest investments Oregon can make is in agriculture and we encourage your support of the ODA's proposed budget. More than 1,000 Oregon grass seed growers rely on these valuable programs.

Sincerely,

Macey Wessels,
Chair

