

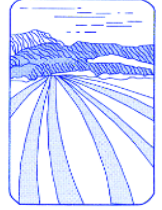


Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Agriculture

635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532



February 28, 2013

Senator Chris Edwards and Representative Ben Unger, Co-Chairs
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Edwards and Unger:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and the Subcommittee members this week regarding the Oregon Department of Agriculture's budget. Here is a list of questions that we noted from Day 3 of our budget hearing. The answer to question 1 is below, and we will be exploring options to address questions 2, 3 and 4 with our staff over the next few days.

1. Currently, does ODA have a statutorily authorized role in inspecting meters at electric vehicle charging stations?

The Oregon Department of Agriculture currently does not have the statutory authority to test meters at electric vehicle charging stations. We are also not aware of any other states that are currently testing electric car charging stations. The National Institute of Standards and Technology is facilitating a work group to address several issues related to this new technology, including method of sale, and device testing methods, procedures, and equipment.

If national model standards are further along prior to the next legislative session, we would be pleased to work together to explore legislation regarding appropriate method of sale, acceptable measuring devices, testing methods, and licensing.

2. How much expertise is needed to be able to put up an insect pest trap? Could landowners and public agency partners put up the traps and send them back to the Oregon Department of Agriculture?

3. What is the turnover rate within the agency? How long have Oregon Department of Agriculture employees served as state employees? It would be helpful to see data that support the statement that it is difficult to hire and retain employees for certain positions.

4. Is it possible to break down changes to the budget and full-time equivalent staff by program? It would be helpful to see the information this way to understand which programs have absorbed the biggest reductions.

If there are additional questions you would like us to consider, please contact me. Once again, thank you for your interest in the agency and for your consideration of our budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katy Coba". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katy Coba
Director