

## Floor Letter in Support of SB 633

The Association of Oregon Counties believes regulation of agricultural seed, flower seed and vegetable seed, and products of agricultural seed, flower seed and vegetable seed is properly reserved to the state, as these agricultural products do not recognize county boundaries.

Oregon County Commissioners and Judges support **Senate Bill 633-A** for the following reasons:

- 1) A statewide approach would avoid the financial burden and regulatory nightmare of a highly technical/scientific determination process. According to the LFO Fiscal Impact Statement: "The passage of **SB 633 - A** may potentially decrease fiscal impacts to counties ..."
- 2) Local ordinances, like that proposed by initiative in Jackson County, may be in conflict with Oregon's Right to Farm Act and federal Law.
- 3) Counties have neither the technical expertise nor the ability to enforce agricultural seed, flower seed and vegetable seed regulations, or regulations pertaining to products of agricultural seed, flower seed and vegetable seed.
- 4) Many Oregon Counties are facing financial crisis. They are laying off non-essential positions such as code enforcement officers. They do not have the resources to manage regulation of agricultural products.

Furthermore, we note, **SB 633-A** simply addresses the question of governance. **SB 633-A** seeks to avoid local regulations, affirming that the State is the appropriate entity to control agricultural seed, flower seed and vegetable seed, and products of agricultural seed, flower seed and vegetable seed.

In Oregon's "shared services" system of governance there is a careful balance between services regulated and delivered at the county level, those provided by the State, and those that are shared. Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, Geology and Minerals, Teacher Standards, Building Codes, Body Piercing and Massage Therapy are a few examples of where the State is primarily responsible for regulation. **SB 633-A** affirms this balance in the area of agriculture.

**SB 633-A** simply places regulation of agricultural seed, flower seed and vegetable seed, and products of agricultural seed, flower seed and vegetable seed where it belongs, with the state.  
**WE URGE YOU TO SUPPORT SB 633-A.**

Commissioner Mary Stern, President, Association of Oregon Counties



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