



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor
Office of State Fire Marshal

Department of State Police

February 2, 2015

RE: **HB 2432**

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Chair Witt and members of the committee:

Premier Public Safety Services

I would like to provide information about HB 2432, relating to agricultural fireworks.

Many types of businesses in this state suffer property damage caused by geese and other birds. Those businesses do not qualify to use agricultural fireworks to protect their property under the current statutes.

HB 2432 is the result of collaboration between the Office of State Fire Marshal and various industries and individuals to allow those businesses such as golf courses, farms, airports, aquaculture facilities, estuaries, landfills/recycling operations, and forest entities to use agricultural fireworks to protect their property with respect to other state and federal law as indicated in Section 2, (3) of this bill.

It should be noted that up until 2010, the State Fire Marshal's office did issue agricultural fireworks permits to golf courses and landfills. However, our statutory authority was challenged. Upon research, we found we should not be issuing agricultural fireworks permits to those entities.

At that time, we began the process to change the statutes so we could start issuing agricultural fireworks to businesses in need.

This bill also adds clarifying language to require agricultural fireworks to be purchased from an Oregon wholesaler and be properly stored.

There are no fees associated with obtaining agricultural permits from the State Fire Marshal, and all other requirements already in place will remain the same. All permit applicants are expected to follow federal, state, and local requirements, including the prohibition of the use of agricultural fireworks on federal and state and private forestland protected by Oregon Department of Forestry when those agencies enact a ban for use during fire season.

Agricultural fireworks are an effective, non-lethal way of scaring away birds that damage property. These fireworks are launched into the air (while the birds are on the ground) and make a bang, crackling or whistling effect, which causes the birds to fly away.

We request your support of this bill which will assist Oregon businesses.

Contact: Anita Phillips, License and Permits manager – 503 934-8264