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February 18, 2015

Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court St NE Room H-178  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Devlin and Representative Rayfield:

On behalf of more than 300 blueberry growers here in Oregon, I'm writing to encourage the support of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's budget request in general, and this letter will highlight the valuable work of the ODA's Plant Protection and Conservation Programs.

These program areas are tasked to protect Oregon agricultural and natural resources from invasive species and require stable and continuous funding to conduct their work. The work of the Plant Protection programs, in particular the Insect Pest Prevention & Management Program and the Invasive Noxious Weed Program, is essential for our industry to protect and enhance domestic and international market access.

The Oregon blueberry industry produces nearly 100 million pounds of fruit each year and is among the largest production areas in the World; access to markets outside our State boundaries is absolutely critical to our stability.

With your support of these programs, we can do our part in continuing to supply one of the most recognized healthy Super Foods to global markets.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zach Krahmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zach" being more prominent.

Zach Krahmer,  
Chairman

