



## Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association

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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 the Oregon Christmas Tree industry, we encourage your support of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's budget request.

While Oregon is by far the largest producer of Christmas tree in the United States, it's very fair to say without the ODA's Plant Protection and Commodity Inspection Programs there may not be a Christmas tree industry in Oregon.

In past years this industry has faced many difficult and complicated market access issues and it's the leadership of very good people at the Oregon Department of Agriculture that have kept us competitive and successful.

By their nature, Christmas trees are the perfect vehicle for hitchhiking pests. Keeping Oregon free of invasive species and helping the industry develop production and harvest protocols that help us assure that we can meet certification standards is the basis of what keeps this industry in the position of being successful and the world's leading supplier of Christmas trees.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Schmidlin,  
President