

February 23, 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

Re: HB 2443

Gentlemen:

As business manager of Marion Ag Service, Inc., an Oregon ag supply company, and president of the Far West Agribusiness Association, I support passage of HB 2443 in its entirety. I would also like to point out two of the reasons we feel passing this bill is important:

Support for the ODA Fertilizer Program

The Fertilizer Program provides important services to Oregon agriculture. The program registers, inspects, and samples products. This helps ensure products are uniform and accurately labeled, and do not contain excess levels of heavy metals. This provides consumer protection for every level of the ag supply chain. This bill asks for modest increases in program funding to support the ongoing health of this program.

Support for Ground Water and Surface Water Research

As proposed, HB 2443 continues the Oregon Department of Agriculture Fertilizer Program support of research on the interaction between crop inputs, such as the nutrients in fertilizers, and ground water or surface water. We whole-heartedly support this approach to improve our understanding of how we can be better stewards.

Sincerely,

Tom Wimmer
Business Manager, Marion Ag Service, Inc.
President, Far West Agribusiness Association