



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Premier Public Safety Services

Chair Edwards and members of the committee:

We would like to request your support of 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. This bill will help Oregon businesses.

It should be noted that up until 2010, the State Fire Marshal's office did issue agricultural fireworks permits for use at 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 resume issuing agricultural fireworks to businesses in need.

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.

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.

If this bill passes, we anticipate an increase of about 50 additional permit applications. This minimal increase in workload can be accomplished with no additional resources.

Agricultural fireworks are an effective, non-lethal way of scaring away birds that damage property. Agricultural fireworks are different from regular fireworks that consumers purchase from a fireworks stand. These fireworks function in the air and make a bang, crackling or whistling effect, which causes the birds to fly away.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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

