



OREGON
ASSOCIATION OF
NURSERIES™

SB 256

**The Oregon Association of
Nurseries recommends
voting**

YES

The Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) is a non-profit trade association that represents more than 900 wholesale plant growers, Christmas tree growers, retailers, and greenhouse operators. Our members are located throughout the state, with our largest nursery growing operations found in Clackamas, Marion, Washington, Yamhill and Multnomah Counties.

The OAN is the main voice for Oregon's nursery and greenhouse industry.

The nursery industry is Oregon's #1 agricultural sector, ranking #3 in the nation with annual sales exceeding \$766 million.

Contact:

Elizabeth Remley
Thorn Run
503-841-3862

Jeff Stone, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Nurseries
971-235-3868

29751 SW Town Center Loop W.
Wilsonville, OR 97070

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Floor Letter

Senate Bill 256

Relating to businesses dealing in plants

The Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) fully supports updates to the nursery statute to ensure that the license and inspection programs of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) are fully funded. We firmly believe that SB 256, written in collaboration with ODA, will help ensure the viability and effectiveness of ODA's programs, which allow the nursery industry to ship clean plant material across the country and around the world.

Senate Bill 256 makes three important updates to Oregon's nursery licensing statute:

1. It raises the license fee cap for both nurseries and Christmas tree growers, allowing ODA to adopt incremental increases over the next 10 years rather than all at once. These fees pay for ODA's licensing and inspection programs, which are vital to the industry.
2. Updates nursery inspection laws to incorporate national model law guidance developed by the National Plant Board.
3. Authorizes ODA to suspend or revoke shipping permits if a nursery repeatedly ships pest-ridden or diseased plants. This is important to protect the international reputation of Oregon's nursery and Christmas tree industries.

As Oregon's economy continues to recover overall, so does the nursery industry. Our vital licensing and inspection programs, which have become a national model, now need more funding in order to keep up with the pace of our growing industry. An increase in the cap will also allow a graduated fee increase schedule which will help create more predictable costs for our member nurseries.

The Oregon Association of Nurseries encourages you to support Senate Bill 256 as a signal of your continuing commitment to our traded sector industry and support reasoned and conservative funding for the Oregon Department of Agriculture's nursery program and secure our future in Oregon.

The OAN urges you to vote YES on Senate Bill 256

From the desk of
Senator Monnes Anderson

Leurie M. Anderson