



Subcommittee on Capitol Construction

Joint Committee on Ways & Means

February 12, 2016

As a reference, Farm Bureau is the largest general agriculture association in the state, representing 7,000 active family farmers and ranchers and 60,000 members statewide.

Farm Bureau supports the request for \$100,000 allocated to endophyte research at Oregon State University (OSU), which will be matched by private dollars.

Endophyte is a naturally occurring toxin in grass straw that is harmful to livestock. Since the state banned field burning, farmers have had to find new markets for straw, which is the stalk left behind after the grass seed has been harvested. Many have turned to international markets, where grass seed growers are able to add value.

One of the main international markets is Japan. The Japanese government mandates a level of endophyte allowed in grass straw imports. Oregon State University's endophyte lab is world renowned in endophyte research and testing. Without these labs, the international market for grass straw would be in serious jeopardy.

Please support the request of \$100,000 for continued research.

For more information, please contact Jenny Dresler (jenny@oregonfb.org)