

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Re: SB 5502 Department of Agriculture

Senator Frederick: “SB 5502 is the budget bill for the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture ensures food safety, protects agricultural natural resources, and promotes economic development in the agricultural industry. The budget for the Department totals \$118.2 million. The budget includes \$23.3 million General Fund, \$8.3 million Lottery Funds, \$68.7 million Other Funds, \$17.8 million Federal Funds, and 371 full-time equivalent positions.

The General Fund budget is 5% lower than 2015-17 approved levels due in large part to fund shifts that moved program costs from General Fund on to Other Funds supported by license and fee revenues due to General Fund constraints. The budget also made a one-time addition of \$1.3 million in constitutionally dedicated Lottery Funds to combat the invasive pests Japanese Beetle and Apple Moth. Food Safety and Weights and Measures inspector positions were added to keep up with growing inspection workloads. \$1.4 million Federal Funds expenditure limitation was added to help Oregon’s produce farmers comply with the federal Food Safety Modernization Act. The budget also eliminates 48 vacant positions.

There is a budget note directing the Department to assure that no state money will be used by federal Wildlife Services to deploy cyanide traps for predator control.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5502 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”