



**OAN testimony in SUPPORT of
House Bill 3464**

Dear Chair Williamson and members of the House Rules Committee,

The Oregon Association of Nurseries supports House Bill 3464, and we encourage you to pass the bill. The nursery and greenhouse industry is the state's second largest agricultural sector and ranks third in the nation, with over \$894 million in sales annually to customers in Oregon, the rest of the United States, and abroad. Nursery association members represent 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 nursery industry—and agriculture in general—relies heavily on skilled labor, and in recent years it's become more difficult to fill open positions on our farms. Many qualified workers are immigrants, and regardless of their immigration status, the recent escalation in federal enforcement activities has caused a great deal of confusion and stress for both our employees and employers. We believe that HB 3464 provides needed guidance and clarity and is model policy for the

public bodies with which our employees and employers interact.

OAN members know first-hand that it isn't clear what information they must share when ICE or other federal agents appear on their property. They also know that the increase in frequency of those appearances has created an atmosphere of anxiety and negatively impacted our labor force, with some employees afraid to even come to work.

In April, OAN came together with the rest of the agricultural industry to host an Immigration Forum to educate our members about how best to comply with enforcement policies. As we continue to educate our members, more clarity and guidance from government entities is needed and welcomed. HB 3464 takes a good first step by creating a consistent process for public entities to comply with federal immigration laws.

OAN strongly encourages your support of this legislation.