

Good afternoon!

As a natural resource industry the Agriculture industry (Ag) is more dependent upon weather than most other industries within the state. As a result, the work must be done when the weather allows. Right now, we are in a critical time for crop production, with much work to be completed in a short period of time. Missing weather windows can lead to reduced yields, crop failure, increased pest/disease pressure, poor quality, and missed markets. As a major contributor to Oregon's economy, missed markets and reduced yields/quality can be crippling for the state economy.

Most Ag industry operations are performed away from population centers, so the likelihood of disease transmission is much lower than national averages. Social distancing within the industry is a regular occurrence not reserved for situations like we're now experiencing.

I urge you to allow the Ag industry to continue its regular operations, independent of restrictions being imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Such restrictions would almost insure unrecoverable losses for individuals, companies, and the government.

Best Regards,
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