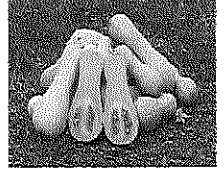


SCHLECHTER FARMS, INC.

503-792-3328

10143 86th Avenue NE, Salem,



To the House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use:

House Bill 2451, introduced in the House by Rep. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, would amend Oregon Revised Statutes pertaining to grading and standards for onions. These statutes, established back in the 1950's, ordered spot inspections of onions prior to shipping, but are rules that are no longer needed. Most, if not all, Oregon onion growers already adhere to GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) and FSMA (Food Safety and Modernization Act) rules and audits, at the growers' and packers' expense. Our onions are already graded and inspected continuously during our packing process, and our inspections are even more stringent than what the state law requires.

The onion business is very competitive, so duplicating the expense of multiple grading and inspecting requirements places Oregon onion growers in a less competitive situation at time when the onion market is expanding globally.

Grocery store and produce distribution buyers who purchase Oregon onions currently reject any onion shipments that do not meet their own standards for size and quality. I believe that Oregon is that only state that requires mandatory inspections, and neither Washington or Idaho require it. Please consider passing SB 2451 to keep Oregon onions competitive in the global market.

Sincerely,

Jim Schlechter
Schlechter Farms, Inc.