



March 7, 2019

Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

The Oregon Seed Association (OSA) is a non-profit agricultural trade association representing the interests of Oregon's world-renowned seed industry. OSA members vary in size from small seed dealers to some of the largest in the world. Our members distribute Oregon-grown grass and specialty seeds to more than 50 countries on six continents, contributing to \$180 million in international trade. Annually, we transport approximately 47,000 truckloads of seed across Oregon roadways. This encompasses transportation from farms to processing warehouses, then on to domestic and international markets.

While as an association we can appreciate Oregon's goal to reduce its carbon footprint, we also recognize that agriculture is a natural sequester of carbon. Despite agriculture's contribution to carbon reduction, HB 2020 will still penalize the seed industry through rising costs of fuel and natural gas. As an industry, we will be unable to recoup those increased costs. As price takers operating on thin margins, this will put us at an economic disadvantage with other grass seed producing states and countries, and affect our ability to be competitive in a global market.

As you move forward in crafting this legislation, we ask you to consider our industry and the vital part it plays in Oregon's economy. Please make the necessary amendments to provide economic protections for our industry. As drafted, we remain in opposition to HB 2020.

Sincerely,

Bill Merrigan
Blue Mt Seeds, Inc
Imbler, Oregon