



March 8, 2019

Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

Pratum Coop in Madras is an affiliate of Pratum Co-op located in Salem. Our Madras location is a significant producer and provider of high quality Kentucky bluegrass throughout the world but also in competition with other outside areas producing bluegrass. Unfortunately, our production area is unlike many of our competing areas where we must rely on irrigation waters from Wickiup Reservoir to supply our life-giving resource rather than the abundant rains in other regions of the country. This need for irrigation dramatically increases our cost of production. Adding additional cost caused by this legislation as written, will unnecessarily place financial burdens on our growers without a way of passing the additional cost on.

We are also members of the OSA whose 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 a member of the OSA 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Boyle", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Dean Boyle  
Site Manager  
Pratum Co-op  
Madras, Oregon 97741