



April 1, 2019

The Honorable Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for HB 3401 – Abolish the Oregon Orchardgrass Commission and Move Assessment Authority to the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission

Dear Representative Clem:

As the current Chairman of the Oregon Orchardgrass Commission, I'd like to convey the industry's support for HB 3401. While Orchardgrass seed production has declined in recent years, there remain research and promotional projects of great importance to Orchardgrass seed producers.

It's important to note that we have discussed this matter with the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission and they have agreed to take on this expanded authority on behalf of Orchardgrass seed producers.

At times when a commission's annual revenue has dropped and overhead expenses become a significant part of the overall budget it makes sense to seek more efficient ways to sustain programs. We saw this model successfully implemented in the 2009 Session when the Oregon Highland Bentgrass Commission's assessment authority was moved to another commission.

The Oregon Orchardgrass Commission has operated successfully for many decades but we recognize the need to streamline efforts in order to continue the fundamental projects that support our seed producers.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Pennig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Larry Pennig,
Chairman
Oregon Orchardgrass Commission



OREGON TALL FESCUE COMMISSION

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March 29, 2019

To: The Honorable Brian Clem
House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use

From: Orin Nusbaum, Chair
Oregon Tall Fescue Commission

Re: **HB 3401 Support – Transfers the Oregon Orchardgrass Authority to the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission**

The Oregon Tall Fescue Commission would like to acknowledge its support for HB 3401, an action that will terminate the Oregon Orchardgrass Commission and transfer the assessment authority to the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission. The Tall Fescue Commission has discussed and supports this action.

The two Commissions have regularly cooperated on projects of importance to the U.S. livestock and forage industries, so we are well acquainted with the nature of their research and promotion priorities. In addition, it's common that producers of tall fescue seed are also producers of Orchardgrass seed, so the merging of these two Commissions works well and makes sense.

It's my understanding the Oregon Orchardgrass Commission operates on annual revenue of approximately \$45,000, a small amount when it comes to research and promotions that illustrates the need to find efficiencies in overhead and administrative expenses.

This also illustrates the need for some commissions to have contractors to provide administration. This provision already exists in Statute, but updates are required to provide detail on the duties those can provide.

Thank you for your support and please let me know if you have questions.

