



April 22, 2019

Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Caddy McKeown  
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Transportation

RE: HB 2284 Testimony

Oregon Seed Council members are continually looking for alternatives for transporting their products to overseas markets. Prior to the loss of container service in the Port of Portland, grass seed straw was the number one, by volume, commodity shipped from the Port of Portland. Since that time the 600 million tons of grass seed straw has been shipped to other ports, mainly Tacoma for shipment to our Pacific Rim customers.

Geographically, the Port of Newport is the best alternative to the Port of Portland as the major production area for grass seed straw is in the central Willamette Valley. Additionally, shipping container trucks to Newport, since the completion of the Eddyville by-pass on Highway 20, is currently the best and most direct route to an Oregon coastal port.

Our members support the idea of new options for overseas shipment of our products from any alternative port. As drafted, or with the 3 amendments on OLIS, it is unclear if HB 2284 would help in that endeavor. If the bill would help to achieve our objective of having an alternative port for shipping out products Oregon Seed Council would support the bill.

Thank you.

Roger Beyer  
Executive Director  
Oregon Seed Council

