



April 25, 2019

Governor Kate Brown  
President Peter Courtney Speaker Tina Kotek  
Senator Mark Hass Representative Nancy Nathanson  
Senator Arnie Roblan Representative Barbara Smith  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem OR, 97301

RE: Equal Treatment Under House Bill 3427 – Agricultural Organizations

We are in receipt of the letter from Eric Groves regarding the potential impact of HB3427 on family owned companies engaged in agricultural processing and marketing. We are supportive of Mr. Groves' concerns and urge you to address any inequities between business entities before passage of HB 3427.

Our company, Willamette Hazelnut Growers, was started by three Hazelnut growing families and is the oldest continuously operation Hazelnut processor in Oregon. We currently service around 100 growers located throughout the Willamette Valley. As proposed, the legislation could negatively impact our business and the 100 farm families we service.

We recognize that the creation of legislation is a complicated and difficult process which can lead to provisions which can have unexpected and undesirable outcomes. There is no moral and economic basis for giving special treatment to companies structured as a cooperative. We don't believe it is the intention of lawmakers to create a bias towards any specific corporate classification. We appreciated your consideration of adjustments to the legislation which will remove any favoritism and unfairness.

We urge you to review Mr. Groves' comments and make the appropriate changes to the final draft of HB 3427. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas Klevay  
Chief Executive Officer  
Willamette Hazelnut Growers