



May 6, 2019

The Honorable Chuck Riley, Chair
Senate Committee on Business and General Government
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

Dear Senator Riley:

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 2011 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,

Larry Pfennig, Chair
Oregon Orchardgrass Commission