



OREGON
ASSOCIATION OF
NURSERIES

Comments relating Senate Bill 455
Before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources
By Jeff Stone, Executive Director, Oregon Association of Nurseries
February 1, 2023

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, members of the committee, my name is Jeff Stone and I serve as the Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Nurseries. I thank you for the opportunity to provide a few summary comments in support of Senate Bill 455, which would establish a grant program for aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery due diligence. In the face of climate change, providing water users with tools to improve water recharge and storage options is critical.

The Economic Footprint of the Nursery and Greenhouse Industry

The nursery and greenhouse industry are the state's largest agricultural sector, and the industry ranks third in the nation, with over \$1.19 billion in sales annually to customers in Oregon, the rest of the United States, and abroad. In fact, nearly 80% of the nursery stock grown in our state leaves our borders – with over half reaching markets east of the Mississippi River. Oregon's elite growers send ecologically friendly green products out of the state and bring traded sector dollars back to Oregon.

Nursery association members represent wholesale plant growers, Christmas tree growers, retailers, greenhouse operators and the entire supply chain to get product to market. Our members are located throughout the state, with our largest nursery growing operations found in Clackamas, Marion, Washington, Yamhill and Multnomah Counties.

OAN Members Manage Water Responsibly and Sustainably

Water is critically important to OAN members, and members take an active role in responsible management of the water resources of the state.

OAN Supports Maximizing Opportunities for Water Storage

OAN supports efforts to improve water storage and develop a comprehensive statewide water vision to address water quality, supply, sharing, place-based planning, and seasonal use. Aquifer Storage and Recovery systems have great potential to advance these efforts.

SB 455 Advances Important Water Management Goals

Thank you for your attention to our comments. We will continue to participate as a good faith stakeholder to encourage the adoption of policies that advance responsible water management.