

To the Committee:

I write in opposition to the designation of the potato as the state vegetable.

While potatoes are a profitable crop it is an imported vegetable, not native to Oregon. Additionally, the metric of sales and profit is not indicative of a vegetable's importance to the state beyond its bottom line.

The Camas Root, a vegetable that is native to Oregon has its greatest diversity in the State of Oregon. Traditionally, 65% of the different varieties of Camas are found in Oregon. Camas was also an important food for Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery.

Most wild and untamed fields in the State of Oregon have some variety of Camas. Camas grow easily and are sturdy, their annual growth and blooming seemingly impervious to the various trials the state throws at plants: frost, fire, and flood. The range of violets, purples, and blues found in the blossoms can turn a sable-colored plain into a beautiful pool of color.

States like Idaho claim the potato and admittedly there are many in the State of Oregon who would like to join Idaho, but state borders exist for a reason and a more unique approach by Oregon is preferable to trying to find an angle to make *our* potatoes more unique than *their* potatoes.

Sincerely,
AJ Earl, Portland