

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Committee on Rules.

My name is Greg Bennett and I farm with my two sons and their families in the Salem area. We are a third and fourth generation family farm, and our primary crop is onions.

I am here today in opposition of SCR3 regarding designating the potato as the official vegetable of Oregon. Although potatoes are grown in Oregon, people typically think of Idaho as the potato state. In fact, Idaho already has the potato as its state vegetable. According to the Oregon Agricultural Statistics, Oregon only provides 7% of the U.S. supply of potatoes. That hardly warrants recognition as the state vegetable.

Onions, on the other hand, are produced in three geographic regions of Oregon producing 21% of the nation's supply, according to the Oregon Agricultural Statistics. Furthermore, Oregon has been exporting onions to Asian markets for over 50 years, developing deep trade relationships benefiting the Oregon economy.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the committee for hearing us on this fun issue. We appreciate your consideration. Onions seem like a perfect fit for representing Oregon.

Sincerely,

Greg Bennett
Chairman of the Western Oregon Onion Growers Association
Past President of the National Onion Association