

**ANNA SCHARF**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 23**



February 2, 2026

House Ag Committee members,

Thank you for taking the time to consider HB 4065.

Oregon's grass seed industry is one of the top five ag commodities in the state but is facing historical challenges and pressures from many areas. Many of those challenges and pressures impacting our grass seed farmers were created in this building. HB 4065 is a fix to one of the good things the Legislature did for farmers and the industry several years ago. While it will not fix all the challenges facing the industry, it will move towards clarifying one of the areas that we, as a Legislature, have control over.

Oregon farmers deserve to be protected from predatory practices. Just like we protect consumers from being harmed by companies, we should also protect those who produce the products those companies sell.

Below are articles about DLF and the predatory nature of how they tested the slow-pay-no-pay laws in Oregon over the last year and a half, at the expense of the Oregon family farmer. ~8 family farms were affected, and more are still coming forward. While the amount to each farm varies, the same thing rings true for each of them. Seed companies bargained, legally and in good faith, and set a price for tall fescue grass seed for the 2024 crop. ODA certified that price. Farmers harvested the crop in the summer of 2024 and were **guaranteed** by State Statute to be paid by May 1, 2025.

When the farmers did not get paid, they followed the law, filled claims and believe the State of Oregon and the Slow-Pay-No-Pay-laws would protect their family farms from large corporations with big bank accounts and high-priced lawyers.

Unfortunately, 2011 improvements to the law with the passage of HB 2159, and what also made more restrictive bills from that session go away, fell flat when put to the test in 2025. It took until December of 2025 for DLF to finally cave to public pressure, respond to the ODA demand letter for payment and a looming court date, to ultimately pay farmers what they owed them + 1% interest. The result for the farmers was financially damaging, and the Legislative intent of the 2011 "fix" was all but ignored.

Here is a link to a report DLF published the same week as the preliminary contested case hearings were supposed to take place and the payments finally went out to farmers. A report that shows a business with strong revenue, not one struggling to pay its farmers. There was no reason for the payments to drag out from May 1 till December, seven plus months.

[DLF Strengthens Its Core Business and Delivers Strong Financial Results](#)

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In addition, the Capital Press Newspaper has done an exceptional job of following this story from the beginning, well before any of the slow-pay-no-pay fillings were placed. Way back in February of 2024, they were sounding the alarm just like I was to this committee. From the article dated 2/11/24:

*"As gloomy as things have been for growers, there could be even darker clouds on the horizon, said Garth Mulkey, a farmer near Monmouth, Ore. "I've never seen it as bad as I think it's going to be."*

**Capital Press articles**

- 1/14/2026 - [Ruling limits ODA's enforcement power in DLF price order dispute | Capital Press](#)
- 12/16/2025 - [Seed dealer DLF challenges ag department's enforcement authority | Capital Press](#)
- 11/24/2025 - [DLF resolves grass seed complaints, ending most enforcement cases | Capital Press](#)
- 11/13/2025 - [DLF may make additional grass seed payments to resolve complaints | Capital Press](#)
- 10/29/2025 - [ODA: Farmers face loan defaults, bankruptcy due to contract violations | Capital Press](#)
- 10/27/2025 - [Judge denies request to merge DLF seed payment cases | Capital Press](#)
- 10/11/2025 - [DLF breaks silence in seed price dispute, denies muzzling farmers | Capital Press](#)
- 10/7/2025 - [Seed dealer accused of trying to conceal underpayments to farmers | Capital Press](#)
- 9/30/2025 - [Enforcing Oregon grass seed payment rules poses challenge to regulators | Capital Press](#)
- 9/19/2025 - [Kotek willing to strengthen seed payment enforcement | Capital Press](#)
- 8/27/2025 - [Oregon regulators accuse grass seed company of underpaying farmers | Capital Press](#)
- 7/29/2025 - [Breeders propose restricting 'variety not specified' grass seed labels | Capital Press](#)
- 7/15/2025 - [Complaints surge about missed grass seed payments | Capital Press](#)
- 2/11/2025 - [Grass seed industry facing difficult times | Capital Press](#)

I appreciate the House Ag Committee considering HB 4065 as a way to place the 2011 legislative intent into statute, bring the 1% interest rate into alignment with current borrowing rates should a claim be filled, and raise the fees for filing a claim in order to assist the agency with the cost of administering the program.

While work still needs to be done to help our ag industry with other challenges, this should close the door a bit more on this issue for now.

Regards,



Anna Scharf