



February 15, 2019

To the House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use, HB 2451:

The current statute, ORS 632.216, mandates that the Oregon Department of Agriculture inspects all loads of onions that are packed for shipment. Here in Malheur County and Southwest Idaho we have USDA Federal Marketing Order No. 958 which requires grade standards and mandatory federal/state inspection of onions.

The repeal of ORS 632.216 would not change any of our inspection requirements at this time. However, if the grade standard requirements of our marketing order were to change and it could very easily, Malheur County onion growers and shippers would suffer a distinct disadvantage with our close neighbor, Idaho.

Our region, SW Idaho and Malheur County, supplies about 40% of the national consumption of onions from September to March every season. Malheur County grows and ships about 55% of that total. Onions is the leading crop in Malheur County and it's responsible for over \$100 million in fob sales annually.

HB 2451 has the support of the board of the Malheur Onion Growers' Assn, all of its shippers and every onion shipper in the state of Oregon (please see list).

Please pass HB 2451 and keep Oregon competitive in the onion industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Kitamura', written in a cursive style.

Grant Kitamura

CEO/Baker & Murakami Produce