



WILBUR-ELLIS®

April 25, 2019

Governor Kate Brown
President Peter Courtney
Senator Mark Hass
Senator Arnie Roblan

Speaker Tina Kotek
Representative Nancy Nathanson
Representative Barbara Smith

Oregon State Capitol
Salem OR, 97301

RE: Equal Treatment Under House Bill 3427 – Agricultural Organizations

We have received the letter from Eric Groves regarding the potential impact of HB3427 on family-owned companies engaged in agricultural processing and marketing. We are supportive of Mr. Groves' concerns and urge you to address any inequities between business entities before passage of HB 3427.

Wilbur-Ellis Co. is a family-owned ag supplier, providing agricultural growers and processors of all sizes and crops grown in the state of Oregon. We aim to have a fair and equally competitive marketplace; HB3427 will provide a competitive advantage to some of the Ag retailers, processors, and farmers in the state of Oregon, leaving other family-owned companies to struggle even more for survival. Wilbur-Ellis Co. supports our local farming communities. We strive to bring them new and innovative ideas based on solid, agronomic knowledge and experience to increase their production, thus helping to ensure a constant supply of local and U.S. grown food to Oregon's communities. Farmers in Oregon struggle to stay in business every year due to the increased costs in labor and inputs, and this bill could be the proverbial "straw that breaks the camel's back".

Different treatment under the tax law between a family business and a corporation organized as a cooperative will have a profound negative impact on our business and our farmers.

We urge you to review Mr. Groves' comments and make the appropriate changes to the final draft of HB 3427. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Walther
Area Manager
Wilbur-Ellis Co.

Ideas to Grow With®

