



## **Testimony in Support of HB 2724-1**

Greg Loberg  
Board Chair  
Coalition of Responsible Oregon Producers

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In 2020 the Coalition of Responsible Oregon Producers formed as a group of several prominent agricultural companies that share a desire to work with Oregon leadership to make positive strides in the industry.

I'm the Chair of that group and we support HB 2724-1, which would establish an ongoing advisory committee to serve as an information source on policy issues related to Oregon crops that come before the legislature or the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Members of the advisory committee would provide non-partisan suggestions to improve legislation or regulatory proposals.

Legislative concepts or other proposals may have unintended consequences that knowledgeable leaders in the industry might identify prior to introduction. This has been done successfully in other sectors, such as construction.

The advisory committee is not intended to duplicate the Board of Ag, which is a body that provides stakeholder access to the many functions and programs at the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The Board of Ag is also intended to be a diverse voice that might help guide overall priorities at the agency. It has not been a group with any legislative or regulatory intent. The Board of Ag is not specific to high value crop sectors and related industries, is broad in scope, does not address legislative concepts, and does not appropriate committees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly.

The advisory committee is also not intended to duplicate the function of Rules Advisory Committees, which sometimes follow rather than precede legislation.

The Coalition of Responsible Oregon Producers proposes to establish a non-partisan advisory group that supports Oregon agriculture with thoughtful legislation and regulations when additions or changes are needed.

Thank you,

Greg Loberg