



From the Desk of
Senator
Bill Hansell

The Oregon Potato Commission is proud to support SCR 3, which would designate the potato as the official vegetable of Oregon.

Potatoes, and the farmers who grow them, are an integral part of Oregon's economy. More than 2.7 billion pounds of potatoes are grown annually across 45,000 acres in Oregon. Potatoes are the eighth largest commodity produced in Oregon agriculture and the number one vegetable grown in the state with a farm gate value of \$200 million. The next closest vegetable in terms of production value is \$100 million. More than 7,000 Oregon full time equivalent jobs are solely the direct or indirect result of our potato industry.

Further, Oregon represents a significant portion of the potatoes grown annually in the United States. Oregon grows more than \$200 million worth of potatoes every year and is responsible for nearly 25% of all French fries exported from the United States. Only three states produce more potatoes than Oregon.

Oregon's potato farmers are also valuable and committed members of their communities, and farmers annually donate one million pounds of potatoes to the Oregon Food Bank.

It goes without saying that potatoes are important to Oregon's economy, our communities, and our food production. We urge you to cement the contributions of potatoes and the farmers who grow them in statute and designate the potato as the official vegetable of Oregon.