



January 25, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon

Re: Support for HB 2687, public applicator licenses for employees of federally recognized tribes

Chair Helm and Committee Members,

We would like to express our support for HB 2687, authorizing the Oregon Department of Agriculture to issue public applicator licenses to employees of federally recognized tribes. We appreciate the need for land management and protection against damaging and invasive species, and we see this as an important connection between ODA and Oregon-based tribes.

If passed, this bill will enable tribes to better manage weeds and other invasives that might threaten their landscape through encroachment from adjacent lands. The bill will also build new and important relationships between the state and tribal members, advancing communication and collaboration around pressing natural resource issues that impact everyone.

We appreciate the Burns Paiute Tribe bringing this issue forward and fully support the implementation of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Katie Murray
Executive Director
Oregonians for Food & Shelter

Karen Lewotsky
Rural Partnerships Lead/Water Policy Program Director
Oregon Environmental Council