

Submitter: Thomas Whitney

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural
Resources

Measure: HB5002

To whom it may concern,

I am scientific researcher who investigates emerging insect pests on ornamental plants grown in the Pacific Northwest. Since 2019 I have worked at Washington State University where my research supported the Christmas tree industry and at Davey Tree where my current research supports the arboricultural industry. In both cases I have relied heavily on the human resources at ODA, including taxonomic assistance with insects I have found in the field. I have also utilized the public data generated by the agency in their Plant Protection Annual Reports in my own research. The absence of a 2021 annual report was a substantial loss, and I hope we can avoid another missed year in the future.

Please consider funding ODA to the fullest extent. The work they do is invaluable for growers, green industry workers, and researchers like me who support them.

Sincerely,
Thomas Whitney, PhD