

Greetings, Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Committee members,

I'm Senator Bill Hansell representing Senate District 29, which includes Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, and most of Wasco and a tater-sized portion of Jefferson, and shoestrings of Clackamas and Marion Counties.

I am the Chief Sponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 3 along with Senators Steiner and Manning.

SCR 3 Designates potato as official vegetable of Oregon. The passing of this bill will *instantly* serve potatoes in Oregon.

The Potato is Oregon's top-selling vegetable and it ranks as the seventh most valuable agricultural commodity in the state. Oregon grows more than \$200 million worth of potatoes each year. As you can see, potatoes, have *skin* in the Oregon Economic game.

According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Oregon farmers planted 44,000 acres of potatoes in 2021 and harvested roughly 2.6 billion pounds. Potatoes are grown from Klamath, to Multnomah, to Union and Malheur, you could say potato production *crisscuts* the state.

While Oregon grows more than 200 crops, *a melody*, potatoes are the most widely cultivated vegetable by a significant margin. Nothing rises to the stature of the potato as far as jobs produced;

as far as product shipped; and as far as farm gate dollars coming in.

We should do everything we can to promote our top vegetable. Passing SCR 3 would solidify the yukon *gold* standard to help promote our Oregon potatoes.

Thank you I urge your "eye" vote on SCR 3, the *other* Oregon chips bill.