

4 February 2024

Senator Kate Lieber, Chair
Senators Tim Knopp, Bill Hansell, James Manning
and Elizabeth Steiner, Members
Senate Rules and Executive Appointments Committee
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

Re: Confirming Lisa Charpilloz Hanson's *appointment* as Director of the Oregon Department of
Agriculture (ODA)

Chair Lieber; Vice-Chair Knopp; committee members Hansell, Manning and Steiner:

I am fortunate to be the resident farmhand employed now for some forty years by a third generation family wheat and alfalfa farming operation situated just east of the Lower John Day river in north-central Oregon's Gilliam county.

Prior to here, I was privileged to have worked as a member of the senate's floor staff and too, subsequently, as legislative assistant to a Salem-area state senator, back in the early '70's thru the early '80s. During that time I also served as board chair of an inner-city neighborhood association in Salem.

I've known Lisa Charpilloz Hanson for most of my forty years here, beginning with her time as ODA's manager of commodity commissions and continuing thru her time as the department's previously deputy director (under Katy Coba and then Alexis Taylor), her time away from the department as the executive director of Oregon's Watershed Enhancement Board, and, today, as the department's interim director she's been since December.

A majority of our interaction and communication over the years has been Board of Ag-centered. I've followed work of the state's Board of Agriculture simply but importantly enough as the longtime interested person I've continued to be in all things Salem since leaving there, with (as several of you know) a particular interest in public records and open meetings.

Chair Lieber, members of the committee, I cannot readily think of another individual, from either within or outside the department—from within or outside of state government, here in Oregon—likely any more qualified or better able to helm the department's important responsibilities or to successfully pursue the serious challenges Oregon Ag—as the community of families and industry it collectively is—faces today.

The committee should certainly forward Lisa's *appointment* to the floor of the full senate with a definite recommendation to confirm.

Sincerely,

Les

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