



**Lisa Charpilloz Hanson as Director of the
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Senate Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments
February 6, 2024**

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments:

As organizations who collectively represent Oregon’s agricultural community, we are writing to express our strong recommendation and support for Senate confirmation of Lisa Charpilloz Hanson’s appointment as Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Ms. Hanson would be a thoughtful and engaged voice for all Oregonians and has the experience and agriculture background needed to represent a perspective that is unique and vital to the state.

Ms. Hanson’s extensive professional experience is unmatched, having served 15 years as the agency’s deputy director, prior to serving as the executive director at the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. She understands what it takes to run a state agency, manage a complex budget process, engage employees, and communicate with stakeholders. Her work over the years on important and sometimes controversial agricultural issues, her thoughtful approach to implementing (and communicating) changes to programs that directly impact farmers and ranchers, such as updates to the Ag Water Quality program, has only increased her credibility with ODA stakeholders and the public. Lisa also oversaw the implementation of ODA's pesticide program, garnering compliments from EPA over the years. Under her leadership ODA created a stringent aerial applicator license and helped create the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC), which has helped provide objective data on pesticide applications to help inform public conversations. These programs have relieved some tension between local farmers and residents. Lisa's ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders, including farmers, policymakers, conservation groups and industry leaders, is truly exceptional. Her inclusive and transparent communication style fosters an environment of trust and cooperation, which is essential for addressing the complex challenges that ODA will be facing.

Many of us have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that Lisa has had on Oregon agriculture. Her dedication to the well-being of Oregon's producers and the overall health of the state’s agricultural sector has been evident and admirable.

In addition to being well respected by a diverse mix of stakeholders, Lisa has an incredible ability to process, distill and communicate technical information in a way that everyone can fully understand. This allows her to provide thoughtful information on new proposed policies and regulatory changes to the public and legislators concisely and in a way that illustrates how they will impact Oregon agriculture. Ms. Hanson will be a thoughtful and articulate ambassador locally, nationally, and internationally.

As a coalition, we are pleased and excited to support Lisa Charpilloz Hanson as the next director for the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

