



RE: Testimony in Support of SB 576 – Appropriation for the Eradication of Japanese Beetle Grubs

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

Our organizations proudly represent Oregon’s agriculture and natural resource industries in every county across the state. We write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 576. This legislation is a critical and time-sensitive measure to address the continued threat posed by the invasive Japanese beetle.

This invasive pest creates significant risks to economic health for farmers, ranchers, and producers and poses a severe threat to a wide variety of crops, including fruits and vegetables, more than 300 plants, alongside gardens, public parks, and urban forests.

Left unchecked, these pests could cause extensive damage to our state’s agricultural and natural resource sectors, threatening food and fiber production, and increasing costs.

We appreciate previous investments to eliminate the Japanese beetle as ODA begins their eighth year of treatments. These efforts have proven successful in curbing the spread and this \$2 million appropriation is essential in preventing an unmanageable statewide infestation.

SB 576 serves to protect existing agricultural operations, safeguard Oregon’s ecosystems, and reduce long-term financial burdens on our farmers, ranchers, and producers.

We urge the committee to advance SB 576 and support the necessary funding for Japanese Beetle eradication. Early detection and rapid response are key. Investing in prevention and control now will save Oregon millions in future damages and help safeguard our state’s economy and environment.

Thank you.

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