



March 18, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 576, which appropriates \$2,000,000 General Fund dollars for the purpose of eradicating Japanese Beetle grubs.

As a farmer in the Willamette Valley and advocate for sustainable agriculture, I urge you to support this critical funding to protect one of Oregon's most vital agricultural sectors.

The Japanese Beetle is an invasive pest with the potential to cause severe damage to Oregon's grass seed industry, the nation's leading producer of cool-season grass seed, contributing over \$600 million annually to Oregon's economy. The Japanese Beetle threatens this industry by feeding on roots, defoliating plants, and reducing seed yields. If left unchecked, these pests could cause significant economic losses, increased reliance on pesticides, and potential trade restriction that would limit our ability to sell seed domestically and internationally.

SB 576 provides essential resources to contain and eradicate this threat before it becomes unmanageable. Early intervention is critical - every dollar spent on prevention now will save Oregon farmers exponentially in future eradication efforts and economic losses.

I urge you to support SB 576.

Sincerely Yours,

Kate Hartnell

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