

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

March 15, 1999 Hearing Room 50

4:30 P.M. Tapes 70 - 71

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Gary George, Chair

Sen. Tony Corcoran

Sen. Joan Dukes

Sen. Ted Ferrioli

Sen. Bill Fisher

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Thomas Wilde, Vice-Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Brad Harper, Administrator

Kristal Hatton-Nease, Administrative Support

MEASURE HEARD: SB 413 Public Hearing and Work Session

HB 2113 Public Hearing and Work Session

SB 663 Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 70, A		
005	Chair George	Convenes meeting at 4:40 p.m. Opens public hearing on SB 413.
<u>SB 413 Public Hearing</u>		
009	Brad Harper	Committee Administrator. Explains that SB 413 appropriates money for Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service to the Department of Education. Comments on the ñ5 amendments [EXHIBIT A] and a memo regarding SB 413 appropriations. [EXHIBIT B]

025	Dave Nelson	Oregon Seed Council. Submits [EXHIBIT C] and testifies in support of SB 413. Says the Pacific Northwest produces approximately 80 percent of the temperate forage and turf grass seed produced in the United States and approximately 60 percent of the temperate grass seed produced in the world. Explains the grass seed industry needs the specific, coordinated research that OSU compiles and says SB 413 restores research capability lost to Ballot Measure 5 over the past nine years.
075	Nelson	Discusses the endophyte fungus problem and explains that the fungus imparts natural insect resistance to the grass but also produces an alkaloid toxin that causes vascular constriction in livestock consuming it as a major portion of their diet. Adds that losses nationwide from the alkaloid toxin are estimated to be in excess of \$1 billion annually. Says research is being conducted at the College of Veterinary Medicine at OSU, to develop anaerobic microbial inoculan that could be given to livestock to detoxify the alkaloid. Urges the committee to vote in favor of SB 413. Introduces Steve VanMouwerick.
130	Steve VanMouwerick	Oregon Agricultural Fiber Association. Gives background information on the Oregon Agricultural Fiber Association. Explains the Oregon Agricultural Fiber Association consists of farmers that sell the straw instead of burning it. Says 25 percent of forage exported from the U.S is grown in Oregon. Says this industry sells \$50 million by exporting the straw as an animal food source, instead of burning it.
180	VanMouwerick	Explains what high levels of endophytes do to animals. Gives personal experience about a trip to Japan. Says his group relies on OSU and their experience to provide sound information and research. Urges support of the funding of the research done by OSU.
220	Mike Stevenson	Cattle producer from Eugene, Oregon. Says his company utilizes forage type grasses. Expresses concern about endophytes in relation to his farm. Says the money provided for research in SB 413 is money well spent. Asks the committee to support SB 413.
258	Dr. Bob Wilson	OSU Department of Veterinary Medicine. Submits [EXHIBIT D] and says OSU is involved in research relating to animal food. States there are ways animals can eat poisonous foods without getting sick. Explains the research approach to the endophyte program. Describes a current OSU research study, which includes feeding sheep increasing amount of endophytes. Says that eventually researchers will be able to breakdown the toxins before they are absorbed by the sheep.
306	Chair George	Calls attention to the pregnancy rate chart on page 5 of the report.
315	Nelson	Oregon Seed Council. Submits [EXHIBIT E] and testifies in support of SB 413. Says he has been involved in the commercialization of meadow foam as a rotation crop to enable the grass seed industry to successfully battle weed grasses. Explains a year ago the Oregon Meadow Foam Growers Association was arranged into the Meadow Foam Oil Seed Growers Cooperative. Introduces Jerry Hatteburg.
365	Jerry Hatteburg	Manager, Meadow Foam Oil Seed Growers Cooperative. Discusses the varieties

		of meadow foam. Says meadow foam is a completely new crop and could become a profitable alternative for seed growers in the Willamette Valley. Explains why the Willamette Valley is a primary area for meadow foam.
415	Hatteburg	Explains what the by-products of meadow foam consist of after extraction of oil. Says this extraction has natural inhibiting factors for pests. Says there is support for this type of research from the nursery association. Says his industry is learning good information about meadow foam meal from OSU researchers. Urges support of SB 413.
TAPE 71, A		
012	Chair George	Comments the nursery industry must use aggressive fumigants. Asks if Hatteburg is suggesting that meadow foam will reduce that.
015	Hatteburg	Replies it has the potential to replace a lot of synthetic chemical pesticides. Says meadow foam is safe to use. Adds that Briggs and Monrovia Nursery is using it. Adds many industries are starting to run tests to develop meadow foam. Urges support of the OSU Extension Service funding package.
048	Polly Owen	Secretary, Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industry. Submits [EXHIBIT E] and testifies in support of SB 413. Says the hazelnut industry had a farm gate of over 44 million dollars in Oregon last year and that the industry has the potential for much more. Explains the Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB) became known approximately 15 years ago. Introduces Rick Malone and Shawn Melenbacher.
090	Rick Malone	Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industry. Explains he is a hazelnut grower and testifies in support of SB 413. Discusses the seriousness of the threat of Eastern Filbert Blight. Explains why he chose to start his hazelnut business.
140	Malone	Explains the hazelnut industry is in serious trouble because of EFB. Commends Dr. Shawn Melenbacher of the OSU Hazelnut Breeding Program. Says Dr. Melenbacher and his staff are on track to release a totally EFB immune variety by the year 2004. Urges support for research funding outlined in SB 413.
162	Dr. Shawn Melenbacher	Director, OSU Hazelnut Breeding Program. Gives credentials. Says he and his staff have learned a lot about the pathogen that causes Eastern Filbert Blight. Passes two pictures that show symptoms of the EFB disease around to the committee. Says he supports SB 413.
197	Chair George	Comments on the pictures shown to the committee. Says one picture looks like it was taken in Washington county. Discusses the environmental aspects of EFB. Adds that without basic research on diseases like EFB, the agricultural industry will not survive.
240	Sen. Fisher	Asks where the EFB comes from and whether it damages the quality of hazelnuts.

248	Melenbacher	Responds EFB came from the Eastern United States. Explains Oregon is the only region that has the EFB problem. Says the EFB disease kills hazelnut trees.
260		Staff presents [EXHIBIT G] on behalf of Pat Egan, Oregon Winegrowers Association.
265	Chair George	Closes public hearing on SB 413. Opens work session on SB 413.
<u>SB 413 WORK SESSION</u>		
278	Harper	Explains two drafting errors in the ñ5 amendments and says that Legislative Counsel will correct the errors before final printing of the bills.
305	Chair George	Asks committee administrator if SB 413 will go to the Ways and Means Committee after passage by this committee.
311	Harper	Responds it will, because it has fiscal impact.
318	Sen. Fisher	Says he supports passage of SB 413 and that it is a good place for money to go.
330	Sen. Fisher	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 413-5 amendments dated 03/15/99.
		VOTE: 5-0 EXCUSED: 1 - Wilde
	Chair George	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
340	Sen. Fisher	MOTION: Moves SB 413 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation and BE REFERRED to the committee on Ways and Means.
		VOTE: 5-0 EXCUSED: 1 - Wilde
	Chair George	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
350	Chair George	Closes work session on SB 413. Opens public hearing on HB 2113.
<u>HB 2113 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		

360	Harper	Explains HB 2113 allows the State Forestry Department to accept donations for the purpose of developing a forest interpretation and education center in Tillamook State Forest. Adds HB 2113 creates the Tillamook Forest Interpretive Center Fund.
380	Ray Craig	Assistant State Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry. Submits [EXHIBIT H] and testifies in favor of HB 2113. Explains HB 2113 is a continuation of important work begun in the 1991 session. Describes what HB 2113 does to further develop the Tillamook interpretive center. Says HB 2113 is a logical and necessary administrative step in continuing the successful development of the center project. Gives background information on the Tillamook State Forest.
430	Craig	Comments that the Tillamook Burn in the 1930s and 1940s scorched 360,000 acres of the Tillamook State Forest. Explains the 1991 Legislature passed HB 2501 (1991), which enabled the Department of Forestry to share the story of the Tillamook State Forest's past and present. Says HB 2501 (1991) was a recognition of three factors: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As the demographics of the state change, Oregonians have become more urbanized and less connected with natural systems like forests. 2. The Tillamook Burn and its rehabilitation were watershed moments in Oregon's history when Oregonians pulled together to do something greater than anyone would have imagined. 3. Projected growth in the region around the forest will produce an increased need for experiences like the ones offered at the interpretive center in the Tillamook State Forest.
TAPE 70, B		
021	Sen. Dukes	Asks if Craig is suggesting the Tillamook Forest was re-planted by hand after the Tillamook burn.
025	Craig	Replies he is not. Says the Department of Forestry recommends passage of HB 2113.
028	Sue Cameron	Tillamook County Commissioner. Submits [EXHIBIT I] and testifies in support of HB 2113. States the Tillamook State Forest Interpretive Center holds great hope for helping all Oregonians understand how the forest took shape and how it will be managed in the future. Explains Tillamook County commissioners support HB 2113.
055	Chair George	Closes public hearing on HB 2113. Opens work session on HB 2113.
<u>HB 2113 WORK SESSION</u>		
065	Sen. Dukes	MOTION: Moves HB 2113 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
		VOTE: 5-0

		EXCUSED: 1 - Wilde
	Chair George	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. SEN. DUKES will lead discussion on the floor.
068	Chair George	Closes work session on HB 2113. Opens public hearing on SB 663.
<u>SB 663 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
070	Rod Harder	Executive Director, Oregon Sportsmenís Defense Fund. Says currently someone who draws a mountain sheep tag can only have one tag in his/her lifetime. States there is a provision in SB 663 that says the ram must have æ curl or larger. States the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife oppose that provision. Explains the ñ1 amendment [EXHIBIT J] to SB 663 removes the restriction on the æ curl. Says the Oregon Sportsmenis Defense Fund is in favor of SB 663 and the ñ1 amendment.
089	Chair George	Comments on a message left by a constituent of his district, who is opposed to SB 663 because it is moving to estate control of everythingí. Says he canít see where that is happening in SB 663.
093	Harder	Replies he does not agree with the constituent and says that SB 663 makes the law more liberal.
095	Al Elkins	Oregon Hunters Association. Echoes the support of the Oregon Sportsmens Defense Fund in regards to SB 663. States the Oregon Hunters Association also supports the ñ1 amendment. Submits [EXHIBIT K] and offers a conceptual amendment to SB 663 that there be no once in a lifetime restriction on a person buying a raffle tag or an auction tag for bighorn sheep.
120	Rich Berry	Wildlife Division Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Submits [EXHIBIT L] and says ODFW has concerns regarding the addition of a statutory 3/4 curl or 4-year-old bag limit for bighorn sheep. Says ODFW supports the Oregon Hunters Associationís proposed conceptual amendment.
154	Chair George	Asks if ODFW has anything to do with the raffle.
157	Berry	Says ODFW provides the tag and that the auction is generally held through the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.
161	Chair George	Asks if ODFW supports SB 663.
162	Berry	Replies ODFW believes it would bring in additional revenue.

164	Sen. Fisher	Comments it is okay for ODFW to sell animals, but not for private citizens to sell them.
167	Chair George	Asks Capt. Lindsay Ball of the State Police Department of Fish and Wildlife if he would like to testify on SB 663.
172	Lindsay Ball	State Police Department of Fish and Wildlife. Responds he is here to answer any questions the committee members may have.
176	Sen. Corcoran	Suggests having the Oregon Hunters Association conceptual amendment be drafted by Legislative Counsel and then have the committee hold a work session on SB 663.
182	Chair George	Closes public hearing on SB 663. Adjourns meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Kristal Hatton-Nease, Brad Harper,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A ñ SB 413, -5 amendments, staff, 4 pp.**
- B ñ SB 413, Memo on appropriations, staff, 4 pp.**
- C ñ SB 413, written testimony, Dave Nelson, 11 pp.**
- D ñ SB 413, written testimony, Bob Wilson, 42 pp.**
- E ñ Sb 413, written testimony, Dave Nelson, 7 pp.**
- F ñ SB 413, written testimony, Polly Owen, 3 pp.**
- G ñ SB 413, writtent testimony, Pat Egan, 1 p.**
- H ñ HB 2113, written testimony, Ray Craig, 5 p.**
- I - HB 2113, written testimony, Sue Cameron, 1 p.**
- J ñ SB 663, -1 amendment, staff, 1 p.**

K ñ SB 663, conceptual amendment, Al Elkins, 1 p.

L ñ SB 663, written testimony, Rich Berry, 2 pp.