



February 13, 2019

Northwest Onion Company would like to show our support for HB 2451 to repeal mandatory inspections from the Oregon Dept of Agriculture.

We have our own "in house" inspector that does exactly what the ODA inspector does and more. Our in house inspector is in our warehouse the entire time we pack our onions and does not do only spot checks like the ODA inspector. Because of the full time inspection we do, we feel we are doing as good or a better job than the state paid inspector.

We feel having mandatory inspections of our onions puts us at a financial disadvantage with our competitors in neighboring states that are not required to pay for a state inspector. We still believe that food safety is our top priority but we would like to even the playing field from a financial standpoint.

We feel like we are being penalized by having to pay thousands of dollars more per year than other onion packing sheds in the Washington and Idaho areas. It makes it very hard for us to sell to the same onion markets as the Washington and Idaho packers because we have to factor in extra cost for inspection. It is very unfair to the Oregon onion industry.

Best Regards

Greg Bennett, President
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Northwest Onion Co.

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