



March 18, 2020

Governor Kate Brown
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Governor Brown:

While we understand that no “shelter in place” order is currently being contemplated, we also recognize the public health situation and the state’s response to it can change quickly. If it becomes necessary to issue a shelter in place order, we ask that such an order includes agriculture as an essential ongoing public need. While health care facilities and first responders rightfully top the list of essential services, maintaining the food supply is also vitally important.

We believe essential services should include farming, ranching, fishing and all commercial activities in conjunction with cultivation that are necessary for the production, processing, and transportation of agricultural products. Products and processes that happen off-farm are critical to farm production, so a definition should include those activities necessary for farm production (for example, fertilizer delivery to a farm, irrigation and farm equipment repair, fuel delivery, etc.) and for farm product to reach the marketplace in the form consumers need.

Agriculture relies on specific seasons to produce Oregon’s food, fiber, and other farm and ranch products. We are entering a decisive moment as spring arrives. Any interruptions now will have long-lasting and dire consequences for the entire year and perhaps beyond that.

Oregon Farm Bureau is working with our grower families to ensure they know the most up-to-date practices to ensure the wellbeing of their employees and their customers, including sanitation, worker safety, and safe distancing practices. We will continue that effort as new advice becomes available.

Thank you for your help ensuring farm and ranch families can meet consumer needs in this uncertain time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Dillon".

Dave Dillon
Executive VP