

Testimony - Neither for or Against

LD 1177 "Resolve, Establishing a 3-year Moratorium on the Installation or Reinstallation of Synthetic Turf and Requiring a Study of the Public Health and Environmental Risks of Synthetic Turf"

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee my name is Jesse O'Brien and I am from Portland. I am the spokesperson of the Ornamental Horticulture Council which members comprises of arborists, greenhouse, landscapers, Christmas Tree growers and Turf Grass Professionals from Sod Producers, Golf Course Superintendents, Sports Fields and Lawn Care and we are neither for nor against LD 1177.

There are lots of benefits of natural grass systems such as water filtration, Oxygen production and Carbon sequestration and cooling. Yet maintaining a performance turf in a natural grass system is challenging and we need all the tools available. Having an artificial, plastic grass like rug surface around, notice my bias, available is one such tool. Finally, the words of SAFE and TOXIC are difficult words in this discussion. Minimizing risks to human health and the environment is the goal. We seek balance and would like to be included in future discussions.

Thank you for your interest,

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