

To: Director, Idaho Department of Agriculture
CC: Office of Gov. Otter

Dear Sir or Madam,

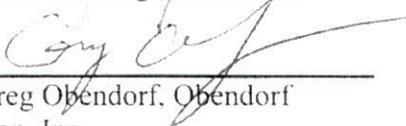
The Idaho Hop Commission (IHC) and all commercial hop growers statewide have joined together in a petition for emergency changes to the rules governing diseases of hops. We are asking for the rule to be changed immediately with the regular rule making process to be followed and submitted to the state Legislature during their 2015 session.

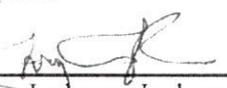
While the pests of hop are varied, a new pest occurred in the three state (Idaho, Washington and Oregon) commercial growing area in 1998. This pest Hop Powdery Mildew, (HPM), *Podosphaera macularis*, can reproduce asexually or sexually. The sexual reproduction requires two mating types, similar to male and female in higher organisms. To date, over 360 strains of HPM have been identified in the Pacific Northwest, all of one mating type. To allow an infection of both mating types would allow HPM to adapt, or resist, via sexual reproduction, much quicker to the control measures we have developed in the last fifteen years. Instead of decades to break resistance, HPM could adapt in a matter of a few years. Also, through identifying additional pests, we bring our definitions up to date with the rest of the commercial hop industry. The addition of hop stunt viroid, ilar viruses, and arabis mosaic viruses to the Idaho quarantine list of definitions further safeguards the industry against these pests.

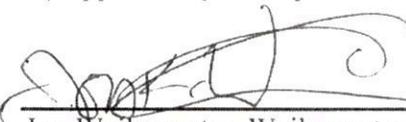
Practically all varietal rootstock required for any application is available commercially within the three state growing area. And, to date, none of it has the second mating type. However, existence of both mating types of HPM has been recently reconfirmed in areas outside of our three state zone. Consequently, should anyone acquire plant material from a source outside of our three state area, it is very possible the second mating type of HPM could establish itself within our commercial area. Oregon and Washington have very recently enabled similar rules to protect their commercial industries. This will allow free-flowing exchange of plant material between the three states and bring Idaho rules in line with the rest of the commercial industry.

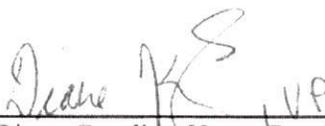
We cannot stress the importance of amending our current rules promptly. These changes will allow anyone in the three state area access to any hop plant material within our borders while still protecting the commercial industry from a potentially catastrophic importation of the second mating type of HPM. We sincerely appreciate your expedited assistance in this matter.

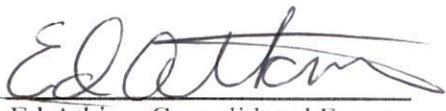

Mike Gooding, Chair, IHC

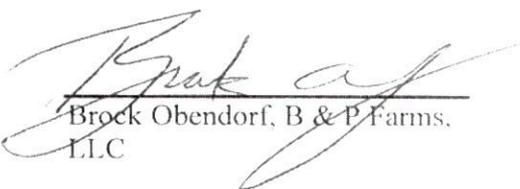

Greg Obendorf, Obendorf Hop, Inc.


Jerry Jackson, Jackson Hop


Jon Weilmunster, Weilmunster Farms


Diane Gooding Haas, Gooding Farms, Inc.


Ed Atkins, Consolidated Farms, LLC dba Elk Mountain Farms, LLC


Brock Obendorf, B & P Farms, LLC

