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February 28, 2018

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of the Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association (CNGA) Board of Directors and our 275 organizational members, we urge you to support legislation that brings the Nursery Act up to date with the current economic times.

The Nursery Act has not been updated significantly since the 1970's and does not reflect the industry as it stands today. The updates to the terminology of "Broker" and "Distribute" are important to our members and industry as they provide very clear guidelines on who is allowed to sell and or distribute nursery stock and that those individuals are required to be licensed with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Furthermore, clarifying the definition of "Nursery Stock" will ensure that our members and nursery growers have a clear understanding of which plants fall within the Nursery Act regulation.

CNGA and our members are committed to raising the professionalism of our industry. Having clear definition and guidelines will benefit nursery growers and protect the end consumers from accessing nursery stock that is sub-par. In addition, we support the increase of the cap in Nursery Registration fee from \$100 to \$300. Due to our great working relationship with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, we do not feel that this fee needs action from the legislature each time it is updated. The fee has not been raised in many years and we agree with the increase which will allow the Colorado Department of Agriculture additional funding to continue inspections and ensuring stock is pest free.

In supporting the updates to the Nursery Act, you have an opportunity to help us raise the bar of professionalism in our industry and ensure that nursery stock grown in Colorado is quality and the end consumer is protected. Again, we urge your support for this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Allison Gault, MBA, CAE  
Executive Director

***Your Growing Resource***