

February 22, 2017

Chairs Frederick and Witt, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before this Committee. My name is Dave Stone. I am the Director of the Food Innovation Center and Associate Professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology at Oregon State University. The Food Innovation Center is one of OSU's Agricultural Experiment Stations. We are a joint venture with ODA's Agricultural Development and Marketing Division, and Laboratory Services. The mission of the Food Innovation Center is to provide technical, creative and educational services to the food industry, entrepreneurs and NW communities, with a focus on quality, safety and sustainability.

I am here to provide public support and testimony in favor of Senate Bill 5502 to adequately fund the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The examples I will provide on food safety and market access represent only a limited snapshot of the important roles that ODA provides for our State.

Included within ODA's recommended budget is funding for staff to implement the expansive and new Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). This law will have direct impacts on Oregon farmers and producers, particularly for small and mid-sized enterprises. ODA's food safety program is coordinating closely with OSU faculty to ensure that farmers and producers have adequate training, relevant educational materials and sufficient clarity to address the requirements of this new law. The investment by ODA to provide additional staffing to address FSMA will help Oregon stay competitive and protect public health.

In addition to food safety, the Food Innovation Center collaborates with ODA to promote Oregon agricultural commodities and food processing capabilities to domestic and international clients. Next week, I will be traveling to Japan with ODA trade managers to attend FoodEx, a major international food and beverage event. We will showcase Oregon products, as well as meet trade officials to highlight our agricultural bounty and the capabilities of our State. This is a long-term strategy and investment that leverages our partnership. At the local level, we work with ODA to assist clients across Oregon ranging from start-up entrepreneurs to large food companies. We leverage OSU's expertise in food science with ODA's technical services and regulatory authority to offer a unique incubator for value-added products, sourced from Oregon farms.

I hope I've shared compelling examples in support of SB 5502. Thank you again for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony today.