



February 6, 2019

Co-Chair Senator Taylor
Co-Chair Representative Reardon
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

Re: Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Budget, Policy Option Package 410—Market Development & International Marketing

Co-Chairs & Members of the Natural Resource Subcommittee:

The Port of Portland would like to support the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s request regarding their Market Development and International Marketing request (Policy Option Package 410).

In 2017, more than \$5 billion worth of agricultural products were exported to international markets such as Japan, Canada, South Korea, Mexico and China. Oregon’s economy – Including agricultural producers, manufactures, service providers, and the tourism industry – rely heavily on international markets. To that end, the Port of Portland has coordinated and worked with our partners at the Department of Agriculture to grow and maintain international markets for Oregon’s agricultural producers.

The Port of Portland was established in 1891, by the Oregon Legislature – primarily to serve the needs of upriver grain growers and foresters. Our history is inextricably linked with that of Oregon Agriculture. Today, the Columbia River system continues to be one of the nation’s most important gateways for export of grain – with 30 million tons of grain exported through the Lower Columbia River in recent years – up nearly 50 percent from only just 5 years ago. Oregon agriculture also fills the bellies of 747 dedicated air cargo planes lifting off from PDX destined for Asian consumers eager to enjoy fresh cherries, blueberries or Dungeness crab.

To continue to grow Oregon’s national and international markets, we believe that more capacity is needed to connect Oregon producers with additional customers. Therefore, we urge your support of ODA’s request for bolstering their Market Access and Development Program with an additional trade development specialist to grow international markets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Leavitt', is written over a white background.

Keith Leavitt
Chief Commercial Officer
Port of Portland