



We Feed You

SUPPORT HB 2900 – INVESTING IN OREGON

Good afternoon, Chair Lively, and members of the committee, my name is Mark Fountain and I am the President of Food Northwest. Established in 1914, Food Northwest is an association of food producers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. We take great pride in being the people that feed you!

I am here today to testify of behalf of the members of the association but also wanted to share my own positive experiences as a former processor who benefited from the machinery and equipment deferral program.

Last year, I worked for a local food manufacturing company that is located right here in Salem, called Oregon Fruit Products. For those of you that are not aware of Oregon Fruit Products, the company has been a member of the Salem, Oregon community for over 80+ years now, starting business in 1935.

Last year, the company spent millions of dollars on new machinery and equipment investments for its processing facility that is located right here in Salem. In addition to purchasing new equipment, Oregon Fruit products also utilized local contractors, here in Salem, for the electrical and mechanical installation of the new equipment. This contributed to millions of dollars of additional investments into our community partners.

The new equipment investments that were made last year were necessary in order to modernize the equipment and allow Oregon Fruit Products to remain competitive within the food industry. In addition, this new modernized equipment is also more technical in nature and the skill sets required to operate and maintain the equipment has increased, which often can lead to higher paying jobs.

Based on the knowledge that the machinery and deferral program was available, Oregon Fruit Products was able to invest in additional necessary equipment last year that otherwise would not have been possible without the program.

I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide feedback on House Bill 2900 and why extending the benefits is good for business, the employees, the communities and the state of Oregon as it promotes investments and leads to higher paying jobs.

Thank you!

Please support HB 2900 - Extending this important investment incentive.