



MEMBER OF  
FEEDING  
AMERICA

March 14, 2019

Dear Chairman Lively, Vice-Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Bonham and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Food Bank works to eliminate hunger and its root causes across Oregon. We collect food from farmers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, individuals and government sources and distribute that food through a Statewide Network of Regional Food Banks and over 1,200 food assistance sites.

In our work to eliminate hunger in Oregon, we address the root causes of hunger through public policy, nutrition and garden education, and public awareness. As we pursue that work, we focus on freshness, champion self-reliance, and advocate for change. Our efforts are enhanced when we work with other organizations that share the values and commitment to improving access to food and enhancing the state's food systems. James Beard Public Market promises to be such an organization.

A permanent, year-round public food market offering the scope and array of fresh, local foods and Oregon-based food products, along with the economic development and food policy benefits envisioned by James Beard Public Market, will be a welcome addition to the food systems of Oregon. James Beard Public Market will not only create jobs and economic development opportunities, but will also raise public awareness of fresh, local foods. The public market will also offer the state a venue for programs that will combat food insecurity, educate on food policies, and promote improvements to Oregon's food systems. All of this will promote the positive changes needed in our state.

The scope and vision for the programming at James Beard Public Market has been encouraged and influenced by Oregon Food Bank as well as by various agencies and organizations including the Department of Agriculture, Business Oregon, Travel Oregon, Travel Portland, the Portland Innovation Quadrant, the Central Eastside Industrial Council, OMSI, OSU's Food Innovation Center, the Oregon Community Food Systems Network, major healthcare organizations, and others. Recognizing James Beard Public Market's prospective and lasting benefits to the state, major philanthropic organizations, including the Meyer Memorial Trust, the Oregon Community Foundation, and the Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund, along with private citizens, have already made contributions to launch the public market's efforts.

Oregon Food Bank looks forward to working closely with James Beard Public Market. As a public-private venture, the public market requires support from the private and governmental sectors to succeed. House Bill 2810 appropriates \$400,000 to help pay one-third of the \$1.2 million in pre-development expenses the project will incur in 2019 and 2020.

Oregon Food Bank enthusiastically supports James Beard Public Market. We encourage the House Economic Development Committee to pass House Bill 2810 out of committee with referral to the Joint Ways and Means Committee. It will be one more step toward ending hunger in our state.

Sincerely,

Leslie Sampson  
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