

Bridges Produce Inc. P.O. Box 820176 Portland, OR 97282-1176 Phone: 503-235-7333 Fax: 503-235-7727 michael@bridgesproduce.com The Oregon Senate Committee on Education, Attn: Chair Senator Michael Dembrow, Vice-Chair Senator Chuck Thomsen and Members of the Committee

Dear Senators:

I am writing today in support of SB 404-2. I believe it to be a valuable investment in Oregon Agriculture that will reap rewards through many sectors. Providing assistance and research oriented solutions that support regenerative agricultural practices is a win-win solution for our state. This bill will help build viable rural business that will strengthen the economy, will provide nutritious food to promote healthy eating in our community and will help provide researched based solutions to soil health which will reap rewards for generations to come. I have no doubt that the small investment required in this bill will yield great rewards for Oregonians for generations.

I write to you as the President of Bridges Produce, Inc, a sales and marketing company that markets the fresh produce from small to mid-size apple and pear growers in the Hood River valley and potato growers in the Klamath Basin. These business employee hundreds of Oregonians and are vital to the fabric of their communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Ben Johnson, President Bridges Produce, inc