

Oregon State Legislature

Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Ref: SB 5702

Co-Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Holvey:

I'm writing in support of the SB 5702 capital request allocation on behalf of the Agriculture-Technology-Education Alliance (ATEA) in Hood River County.

My name is Yesenia Sanchez Oates. My husband I own Old Parkdale Farms. We grow the official Oregon State fruit: pears in Hood River County. Previously, I spent six years at Insitu as an International Business Development executive, marketer. Insitu is a local tech company specializing Unmanned aircraft systems. I currently serve on the board of directors for the Hood River County Education Foundation. I also serve on the Board of Education for Columbia Gorge Community College. I have a bachelors in International Business with a specialization in Diversity, Citizenship and Social Justice from Seattle University. Having a foot in agriculture, tech and education, I'm seeing the challenges facing small farmers up close. ATEA will help small farmers like me address issues we face now and prepare for the future.

I was born and raised in the Columbia River Gorge so I am excited about the potential for this project to help our community thrive in the future.

The site will serve to test new agricultural technologies, which will be essential as farmers seek to maximize efficiency amid times of climate change, workforce disruption and global competition.

Success will help ensure the continuation of family farming in Hood River County and the Mid-Columbia region by equipping new generations with the knowledge, skills and hands-on learning to succeed in the business of farming.

Capital investment through SB 5702, as supported by Sen. Thomsen, will be instrumental to this project by allowing acquisition of a parcel by the Agriculture-Technology-Education Alliance.

ATEA will be an economic ecosystem centered on an "innovation farm" and program of study at Hood River Valley High School and Columbia Gorge Community College. Agricultural and technology sectors will partner with entrepreneurs to help agricultural producers remain competitive.

We encourage your support of SB 5702 and our capital funding request.

Sincerely,

Yesenia Sanchez

Old Parkdale Farms Inc

