



Date: April 21, 2023

To: Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures

From: Scott Bruun, OBI

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2066 and SB 144 / Food Processing and Equipment Property Tax Exemption Sunset Extension

Good morning, Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of both HB 2066 and SB 144.

OBI fully supports Oregon's existing program for temporary property tax exemption for food processing machinery and equipment, and we fully support the extension of the sunset for this abatement program to 2032, as called for in both HB 2066 and SB 144.

Oregon's diverse food processing businesses are a vital part of Oregon's economy and also a major source of family-wage jobs. The industry provides well over 100,000 jobs and generates over \$1 billion annually in state and local tax revenues.

On OBI's manufacturing bus tour last summer, we had the opportunity to visit several vibrant food processors along with state and local elected officials. We saw firms doing incredible work with cutting-edge processing equipment. We heard clearly that continuous investment in this equipment and related processes was integral to competitive success.

We would also note, and we heard continuously, that rising taxes and regulatory burdens made the few tax incentives available to food processing industries more important than they had ever been.

For these reasons, we encourage your support of both HB 2066 and SB 144.

Thank you.

scottbruun@oregonbusinessindustry.com