



**TO: Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education  
Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair  
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair**

**DT: April 14, 2023**

**RE: HB 5025 - Support of OSU Statewides- Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Lab**

Co-Chairs & Members of the Committee:

As a member of Oregon's Food and Beverage sector I write to express my strong support for OSU Statewides' budget in HB 5025.

OSU Statewides contributes greatly to Oregon's Food and Beverage sector through applied research and distribution of knowledge through OSU's statewide Extension network. It is important that OSU Statewides receive continued service level funding and receive focus on sustainable food systems.

Through increased investment in the OSU's Statewides will provide support of local food and beverage entrepreneurs. Experts in Sustainable food technology will be placed regionally to consult and connect food businesses with existing food innovation centers (Portland, Astoria, Corvallis). Innovation specialist will support the Master Food Preservers programing greatly contributing to delivering affordable, adequate and accessible food across Oregon. Emphasizing regional food production will provide jobs and commercial economic growth in small and midsize communities throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kurt McKnight".

Kurt McKnight  
Owner  
Ever Fresh Fruit Company