



April 19, 2023

Co-Chairs & Members of the Committee:

As a 35-year food industry professional and 25-year small business owner, I express my strong support for the 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 the OSU Statewides receive continued service level funding and receive a focus on sustainable food systems.

I am seeing first-hand the impact of climate change on Oregon food manufacturers. These businesses are increasingly challenged to sustain their operations with consistent supplies of ingredients meeting the changing landscape of consumer demand for foods that can be claimed as more sustainable. This includes an increase in demand for foods using ingredients verified from sources using sustainable agricultural, technologies advancing sustainable manufacturing practices, and a more diverse food industry workforce trained to meet these new challenges. This requires investment in food system resiliencies if Oregon's food industry is to remain competitive and relevant.

An investment in OSU's Resilient Food Systems initiative will advance sustainable food systems within the state to address these environmentally driven business challenges and drive new demand for products manufactured by Oregon food and beverage companies. I am impressed at the vision and level of thinking that this initiative brings to support Oregon's food and beverage economy. It addresses a need to diversify and strengthen Oregon's food community by developing future leaders in food science. It includes support for research into advancing technologies for new foods from novel protein sources. It will also drive positive change by identifying and funding pre-competitive research aimed at accelerating sustainable food manufacturing in Oregon. Finally, it includes investment into how best to use popular science to inform consumers about how these new advances support consumer demand for products that will lead to resiliency in the face of climate change.

HB 5025 makes sense as an essential investment for Oregon agriculture and in particular Oregon's food and beverage manufacturing sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Lundahl", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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