

April 16, 2023

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

FROM: Oregon Section of the Institute of Food Technologists

SUBJECT: Support of OSU Statewides- Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station
and Forest Research Lab (HB5025)

Co-Chairs & Members of the Committee:

As an organization that has representation from Oregon's food and beverage sector, this letter is to endorse our strong support for the Oregon State University's (OSU) Statewides' budget in HB 5025. OSU Statewides has had significant contribution to Oregon's food and beverage sector through applied research and distribution of knowledge through OSU's statewide Extension network. We strongly believe that OSU Statewides continued service level funding will enhance their outreach as well as focus on sustainable food systems.

An increased investment will allow OSU to build the expertise in sustainable food technologies through education, impactful research and technology transfer to Oregon's food and beverage industry. The overall focus is to identify and implement financially viable strategies to transform food and beverages manufacturing using less land, water, energy, and raw materials while creating less waste, less greenhouse gasses and reducing dependency on plastics. A niche area that Oregon can be a leader in the Pacific Northwest is in the area of non-animal based alternative proteins. This effort would align with the growing global consumer demand for sustainable protein sources and complement other academic organizations involved in plant and alternative protein research. New faculty members can bring in new skills to start up new or strengthen existing programs.

Increased investment in the OSU Statewides will provide regional support of local food and beverage entrepreneurs. Sustainable food technology experts, located across the state, can consult and connect food businesses with the existing food innovation centers in Portland, Astoria, and Corvallis. Additionally, innovation specialists will support the Master Food Preservers programming which will enable affordable, adequate and accessible food across Oregon. An emphasis on regional food production will create jobs and commercial activities in small and medium sized towns.

Sincerely,

Oregon Section, Institute of Food Technologists

Sarah Martinez, PhD
Past President

Anna Ku
President

Christina Edwards van Muijen
President-Elect

