

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

April 11, 2023

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

Oregon Fruit Products is a 88 year old fruit processor located in Salem. We have worked alongside Oregon State University as well as many other food and beverage companies to help put Oregon on the map for our industry.

As a member of Oregon's food and beverage sector, I am writing to express my support for the OSU Statewides' budget HB5025.

The State of Oregon continues to grow in recognition in the international food and beverage scene. The OSU Statewides contribute greatly to Oregon's food and beverage sector. It is important that the OSU Statewides receive continued service level funding in order to focus on sustainable food systems and continuing to develop the research that will create global change and firmly establish our leadership role in these areas:

- This initiative will allow OSU to continue to recruit experts in sustainable food technologies who will:
 - Educate students, conduct impactful research, and provide education 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.
- HB5025 will advance sustainable food systems within the state to address environmental concerns and continue to grow Oregon's food and beverage economy while diversifying and strengthening Oregon's food community.
 - It will allow us to continue to develop future leaders in food science and sustainable technologies and unite Oregon's food and beverage industry by identifying opportunities as well as address challenges facing industry. It is my hope that it will allow us to identify and fund research aimed at accelerating sustainable food manufacturing in Oregon and establish our place as a true leader in the industry.
- This initiative will provide regional support of local food and beverage entrepreneurs.
 - We continue to see the importance of food and beverage companies as the lifeblood of our economy. This initiative will allow us to place sustainable food technology experts in Pendleton, Central Oregon, and the Rogue Valley to consult and connect large and small businesses and entrepreneurs with the Department of Food Science & Technology's innovation centers (Portland, Astoria, Corvallis). This will allow us to build on the already

successful innovation program currently housed at the FIC in Portland. An emphasis on regional food production will create jobs and commercial activities in small and medium-sized towns that make up much of Oregon's geography. Support of Oregon's local and regional food hubs will enhance the viability of the areas manufacturers as they expand their markets beyond direct to consumer.

I am asking that you fund both the initiative as well as the continued service level funding support. This will allow us to continue the great work that has been started and allow us to educate, attract, and retrain the talent needed to maintain this position in the years ahead and to firmly establish ourselves as global leaders in resilient food systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Sarles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Sarles" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Sarles
Oregon Fruit Products past CEO