



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

DT: April 26, 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 and a proud alumnus of Oregon State University, I am writing to 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. To view some examples of specific knowledge distribution to your county, visit [The Statewides: Our Impact](#).

I would also like to point out that an increased investment in the OSU Statewides will provide regional support of local food and beverage entrepreneurs. I am proud that Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods, Inc., with our 800 employees, was founded in 1978 in Milwaukie Oregon.

This program can help more food and beverage companies like Bob's Red Mill, make Oregon their birthplace and home. How will it do this? Sustainable food technology experts will be placed regionally to consult and connect food businesses with the existing food innovation centers (Portland, Astoria, Corvallis). Additionally, innovation specialists will support the Master Food Preservers programming that delivers 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. Support of Oregon's local and regional food hubs will enhance the viability of regional food markets beyond direct-to-consumer sale.

Sincerely,

Trey Winthrop

Trey Winthrop
Chief Executive Officer