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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, I am writing to express my strong support for the OSU Statewides' budget in HB 5025.

OSU Statewides' contribute 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 focus on sustainable food systems.

As an Executive of Oregon's largest beverage distributor, and distributor of some of Oregon's finest craft beer brands, the on-going support of resilient programs within agriculture and food and beverage processing is critical to Oregon maintaining a leadership position in these markets. Oregon's beer, wine, cider and spirits industries generate more than \$14 billion in economic activity for the state. The 87,000 jobs just beer, wine and spirits create, generates more than \$6 billion in Oregon wages.

An increased investment will allow OSU to recruit experts in sustainable food technologies who will educate students, conduct impactful research and provide education 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. New faculty members will fill current holes in existing skill set and will provide capacity to start up new or strengthen existing programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Meade". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Meade
Chief Financial Officer