



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

DATE: April 27, 2023

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

Co-Chairs & Members of the Committee,

As CEO of Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA) and a proud member of Oregon's food and beverage sector, I am writing to express my strong support for the OSU Statewides' budget in House Bill 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.

TCCA has been a longtime supporter of OSU's Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station, committing \$1.5M to their new dairy processing building and supporting students annually through scholarships. Oregon State has been a key partner in the development of dairy in Oregon and by increasing focus on resilient food systems the proposed budget will further position our state as a leader in sustainable food processing and efficient agricultural production.



An increased investment in the Agricultural Experiment Station 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.

Also, an increased investment in the OSU Extension service will expand proven programs to support agricultural production at all scales across the state, strengthening the capacity of agricultural producers in making data-informed economic and agronomic decisions.

Sincerely

Patrick Criteser
President & CEO, Tillamook County Creamery Association