March 21, 2023

Senator Aaron Woods and Representative David Gomberg,
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg, and members of the committee,

My name is Spring Alaska, and I'm writing to express my appreciation for the Technical Assistance I received through Oregon Native American Chamber, a recipient of Business Oregon's Technical Assistance program. I am the Owner and Indigenous Agriculturalist of Sakari Farms, just west of Bend. We grow traditional foods, herbs, and medicines, and we support local tribal members with cooking classes, educational programs, and Tribal Enterprise development.

We are a small and dedicated operation, and ONAC supported us by providing key technical assistance training, primarily helping us to develop our first PNW Tribal Agriculture Guide and assisting in tax filing. I am an enrolled member and shareholder of the Chugach Alaska Native Corporation and the Valdez Native Tribe, and receiving this kind of support from a Native American organization was vital.

As a small business owner, I am voicing my strong support for ONAC and the Technical Assistance program. Sakari Farms and other Native-led operations are stronger because of what ONAC does, and I am requesting Business Oregon to continue its funding of this key program. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Spring Alaska
Owner
Sakari Farms