



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Agriculture

635 Capitol St NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532



April 20, 2017

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court St NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) requests permission to apply for two federal grants from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to support continuous improvement in our manufactured food safety inspections and to support ongoing International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accreditation in our regulatory laboratory.

Oregon Department of Agriculture has participated in FDA's Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS) grant program for ten years. The program provides funding to states to achieve and maintain conformance with ten quality criteria for state manufactured foods inspection programs. Oregon was one of five pilot states to participate in this program beginning in 2007 and has achieved conformance with all ten criteria. The new funding application will support our time to maintain conformance with the standards and will provide funding for staff training at FDA courses. It will also support our time to focus in three areas where we believe there are opportunities to improve our program.

High quality, accredited state regulatory laboratories are an important component of the MFRPS program. Receiving ISO accreditation for food safety tests, such as tests for disease-causing bacteria, prepares the laboratory for the demands of new federal food safety regulations and facilitates sharing results with FDA and other state regulatory programs. The ODA regulatory laboratory received separate funding from FDA that supported preparation and application efforts for ISO accreditation. In 2016, the ODA laboratory received ISO accreditation for several regulatory tests that support the Food Safety Program's regulatory work in its manufactured foods program.

We plan to request up to \$225,000 for the MFRPS grant and \$350,000 for the ISO accreditation grant. The MFRPS grant will be for one year and the ISO accreditation grant is for two years. No state match is required. The funding opportunities were posted March 1, 2017 and close May 1, 2017.

**Agency Action/Background**

Oregon Department of Agriculture was one of five pilot states to participate in the Manufactured Foods Regulatory Program Standards when FDA first announced the program in 2007. The program evaluates state manufactured food regulatory program conformance with ten quality criteria and requires the state to develop strategic plans to address deficiencies. Oregon Department of Agriculture was the first state in the nation to achieve conformance with all ten standards in the MFRPS program.

MFRPS has benefited the Food Safety Program in several ways, including better training of agency staff, development of written Standard Operating Procedures, and development of interagency agreements with partner agencies. Historically, the agency has received \$300,000 per year in funds through this program. This year, we are applying for a scaled-back program to preserve and enhance the benefits of participating, while also keeping as much staff time available as possible to catch up on our routine inspections.

**Action Requested**

The ODA respectfully requests permission to apply for two federal grant opportunities from the Food and Drug Administration to continue its participation in the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards and maintain and enhance ISO accreditation of its regulatory laboratory.

**Legislation Affected**

ODA's 2017-19 Governor's Budget Package #270 includes Federal Funds limitation and three limited duration positions to continue ongoing work related to MFRPS. Approval to pursue this application will secure funds for those positions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis M. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alexis" being more prominent.

Alexis M. Taylor, Director  
Oregon Department of Agriculture