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February 5, 2019

The Honorable Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for The Oregon Department of Agriculture's Budget and International Trade Manager Position

Dear Senator Taylor and Representative Reardon:

Before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources is HB 5002, the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) budget measure. I am writing to express my support.

ODA's mission of ensuring a healthy environment, natural resources and economy for all Oregonians is vital to the State's social, environmental and economic well-being. As a State Commodity Commission, each of these three areas are important to the viability of our success in global trade, **I strongly urge the Subcommittee to support and fund the Agency's request for an additional international trade manager** in the Agricultural Development and Marketing Program (ADMP) of the Market Access and Certification Program Area.

Oregon agricultural producers and processors produce more products than the state's citizens can consume. This necessitates the need for Oregon products to be sold across the country and around the world. The ODA's Agricultural Development and Marketing Program helps promote and create demand for Oregon's agricultural products domestically and internationally.

Funding an additional ADMP international trade manager would further promote sales of Oregon agricultural products internationally. This is an increasingly important need for Oregon's agriculture industry considering the world's emerging markets and current trade climate. Oregon must remain competitive in established foreign markets and create demand in emerging markets for blueberries and all agriculture in order to remain viable.

Thank you for supporting the Oregon blueberry industry by supporting the ODA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan Ostlund".

Bryan Ostlund
Executive Director

