



March 22, 2019

The Honorable John Lively
House Committee on Economic Development Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: In Support of James Beard Public Market – HB 2810

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chair Lahey, Vice Chair Bonham and members of the Committee:

The Board of the Portland Innovation Quadrant offers enthusiastic support for House Bill 2810. HB 2810 provides financial support for pre-development of the James Beard Public Market.

James Beard Public Market will be a permanent, daily, year-round, indoor-outdoor food market and public gathering place. Operating as a non-profit, the Market will showcase the quality and diversity of Oregon's farming and food economy by featuring a food hall with more than 50 vendors selling Oregon-based fresh foods, meats, poultry, seafood, cheeses, beverages and other food products produced by Oregon companies. James Beard Public Market is to be constructed on the expanded campus at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, along Portland's Eastside Esplanade on the east bank of the Willamette River near Tilikum Crossing, in the heart of the Innovation Quadrant.

The Portland Innovation Quadrant (IQ) is an emerging district in Portland's urban core where educational institutions, companies, and government are partnering with entrepreneurs, accelerators and incubators to create an innovation hub that will promote job creation, recruit talent and investment and connect residents to innovation economy jobs. The construction of the James Beard Market will contribute in significant ways to the overall success of the Portland IQ. It will feature Oregon's innovation in farm-to-table agriculture, promote the products of food entrepreneurs throughout our state, and offer classes to students and aspiring food entrepreneurs. The Market will also bring thousands of visitors to the IQ on a weekly basis and shine a light on our state's innovation economy.

The Board of the Portland IQ is excited to partner with James Beard Public Market and views it as a key asset in the overall success of the Innovation Quadrant. For these reasons we urge the House Economic Development Committee to support HB 2810 and pass it out of committee with referral to Ways and Means.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Flynn", written in a cursive style.

Erin Flynn
Executive Director, Portland Innovation Quadrant

www.portlandiq.org