

March 3, 2021

Chair and members of the committee

Nan Devlin, Executive Director of Tillamook Coast Visitors Association in Tillamook County

Our organization has twice been the recipient of a Business Oregon Rural Opportunity grant, the first one applied for after launching the North Coast Food Trail, when we discovered the needs of our small farmers, fishers, producers and restaurant industry for an efficient and reliable food hub/food delivery system.

Because of the research and planning we were able to accomplish with these two grants, our partners at Columbia Pacific Regional Economic Development District applied for and was awarded \$400,000 funding from the USDA Rural Food Systems grant to expand our work beyond Tillamook County to a regional food system for the entire north coast.

Our local farm nonprofit, Food Roots, received a grant from our county and the Oregon Coast Visitors Association to purchase a refrigerated delivery van, which is already serving customers in Tillamook County, north coast and in Portland.

This month we will have a robust business plan and prospectus in hand to seek public/private partnerships in a series of food hubs along the entire north Oregon Coast, which will not only support our local food businesses but also expand our regional markets throughout Portland and the Willamette Valley.

This will result in an immediate full-time staff of 7, three of which have already been trained and certified in Food Hub Management.

I encourage support of HB 5023 so that we, and other regions in the state, can continue to build resilient food systems.

Thank you.