

**James Beard
PUBLIC
MARKET**

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Kathleen Taylor
The Honorable Jeff Reardon
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE, S-423
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for Oregon Department of Agriculture's Governor's Budget – SB 5502
Public Hearing: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Dear Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon and Members of the Subcommittee:

Key components of the mission of James Beard Public Market, a project of The Historic Portland Public Market Foundation, are to promote sustainable agricultural practices and to provide entrepreneurial opportunities for Oregonians who produce and sell the food we eat. Oregon's Department of Agriculture ("ODA") is, of course, the lead state agency to serve the state's agricultural industry. In that capacity, ODA advances the mission our organization strives to fulfill. We are proud to have ODA partner with our Oregon Taste online food directory (<https://OregonTaste.com>) as we all strive to connect consumers with those who produce Oregon's foods and food products.

The budget proposed by ODA and Governor Brown includes the necessary funding to maintain the core programs administered by the ODA and includes policy packages that would increase resources for marketing and development among new and emerging producers and food businesses, implementing recommendations from the Governor's Racial Justice Council, and creating a Diversity in Agriculture Grant Program (Pkgs 130, 430, and 090). ODA's marketing and development initiatives for new and emerging producers will help those Oregonian food producers who need and deserve the most help.

For these reasons, James Beard Public Market offers its support for Governor Brown's Proposed Budget for ODA and encourages the Subcommittee on Natural Resources to pass Senate Bill 5502.

Sincerely,



Fred Granum
Executive Director