

Dear Senators,

I would like to share the importance of the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs- Food Innovation Center- to the State of Oregon. The Food Innovation Center has provided valuable services and information to help my business thrive for ten years. With every new twist and turn I know that I can book an appointment and receive assistance and guidance from scientists, extension agents, and every wonderful OSU employee.

I went to the FIC when I was looking to start Marshall's Haute Sauce in 2011, I wanted to source Oregon produce for my line of sauces and help to tell the story of Oregon Agriculture in each bottle. They assisted me as a startup, helped with food testing and nutritional facts, and product safety. They help new business owners do things safely and in a cost effective manner. I have continued to go to them each time I launch a new product. I help to support women farmers by purchasing 1,000's of pounds of produce from them each year, OSU has connected me to many of these wonderful farmers.

2020 has offered many challenges for Oregon small business, but the FIC has been there to help keep us educated and inspired as we pivot, in order to survive. They strive to assist Women owned and BI-POC business around the state. They have sponsored the podcast I co-host with Sarah Masoni, called Masoni & Marshall: The Meaningful Marketplace, we interview, lift up, and tell the stories of women owned food businesses in Oregon, we could not do this without OSU department of Ag Science and their support.

I acknowledge the unique state of Oregon's economy, I believe OSU's mission and the mission of the Food innovation center serve Oregon well, and the programs in place help business owners.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sarah Marshall