

April 21, 2021

Co-Chairs and Members of the Ways & Means Committee:

My name is Janice Cooper. I am the Managing Director of the Wheat Marketing Center, which is a non-profit research and technical training center funded by US wheat growers, including the Oregon Wheat Commission. Located in Portland, our team of cereal scientists focuses on demonstrating the quality of U.S. wheat to help promote exports. I am pleased to share some comments with you today in support of continued funding for OSU Statesides.

We often collaborate with the Food Innovation Center (FIC), the only agricultural experiment station located in Portland, on wheat-related product development projects including Asian noodles with local ingredients like pumpkin powder, seaweed, and apple pomace; low sodium bread for schools and nursing homes; and cotton seed crackers to utilize food waste. These joint projects bring diversity to our lab and value to FIC's many customers.

During my tenure of almost six years at the Wheat Marketing Center, I have been impressed with FIC's expertise in helping food entrepreneurs bring their products to market, providing sensory evaluations, and training food companies in food safety protocols. FIC, an unusual agricultural experiment station in the urban environment of downtown Portland, is making a true contribution to the economic and social well-being of Oregon.

Thank you for this opportunity to highlight the benefits of just one program within OSU Statesides; I urge your continued support for this important OSU activity.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Cooper, Managing Director



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