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2 February, 2022

Sen. Jeff Golden, Chair, and Members
Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 1532

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1532.

1000 Friends of Oregon is a statewide nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 40 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice. We created our Food Systems Program in 2015 to expand our work with partner organizations throughout the state who are working together to build and strengthen robust and healthy food systems across Oregon.

Oregon State University provides support for all Oregonians, and especially for the Oregon families whose livelihoods depend on our working lands, through several programs that include the Forest Research Laboratory, the Agricultural Experiment Station, the Extension Service, and the Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems. Those services, known collectively as “the Statewides,” are currently operating under a \$2.2 million deficit, which is resulting in a decrease in programs and services. 1000 Friends of Oregon is part of a coalition of about 40 organizations, many of whom have testified about SB 1532, which is asking the legislature through a different process to fill this budget gap.

Restoring these programs to full capacity should be the main priority. However, even at that level, much more could be done to support and strengthen Oregon’s agricultural economy and the producers that make it what it is. The -2 amendments to SB 1532 would increase funding beyond the baseline in order to add several more experts to provide increased programs and support for Oregon’s farmers and ranchers.

We respectfully encourage you to support Oregon’s farmers and ranchers by supporting SB 1532.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Holmes".

Greg Holmes
Food Systems Program Director
1000 Friends of Oregon