

SINCE 1935
OREGON
FRUIT PRODUCTS

RE: SB 144 and HB 2066

April 20, 2023

Co-Chairs Meek and Nathanson, Co-Vice Chairs Boquist, Reschke, and Walters, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this written testimony. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Oregon Fruit Products in support of SB 144 and HB 2066. Oregon Fruit Products is a family-owned Oregon business based here in Salem that was founded in 1935. We produce a range of fruit products. The one you might most easily recognize is our line of canned cherries, berries, plums, and rhubarb with the word OREGON in all-caps on the label. We employ over 100 Oregon residents, procure fruit from local farmers, and we're proud of our Oregon heritage.

As chief financial officer for the company, I know how difficult it is to allocate limited resources to their best use. That is one reason this tax deferral for the purchase of food processing equipment and machinery is so important. It can help tip the scales in favor of an investment that otherwise would have to wait or maybe not happen at all. At Oregon Fruit Products, in recent years we've been able to add an aseptic fruit puree and frozen fruit lines, which allowed us to hire over 20 new employees. We've also been able to improve our wastewater handling system to ensure we can continue to be good stewards of the environment.

We believe the return on investment for our local community and for the State of Oregon is very high. This program encourages investments that keep food sector companies competitive and protects the 120,000+ Oregon jobs that depend on companies like Oregon Fruit Products. A healthy food sector supports agriculture and the food retail, food service, and related economic activities that strengthen our state.

Sincerely,



Tom Christensen, CPA
Chief Financial Officer
Oregon Fruit Products