

To the Members of the Capitol Construction Joint Committee:

I am rooting for the resurgence of downtown Portland. I think the James Beard Public Market may be the best vehicle to help revitalize our downtown that I have heard of yet. That is because it is not a festival, or an exhibit, or a seasonal attraction. It is a place that would be open daily for both peoples' needs AND entertainment. A place that would increase activity and vibrancy consistently. I operate 2 restaurants on East Burnside on Portland's East Side and a wine shop in the Pearl, but I used to operate Little Bird Bistro just a block or two from the site where the JBP Market will be. In the couple years leading up to Little Bird's closure I saw the effect of less foot traffic on a neighborhood and how that changes it for the worse. This is an opportunity to change a neighborhood for the better - a neighborhood whose resurgence with ripple through the city.

I am writing to express my strong support for the James Beard Public Market request for \$10 million in funding from the state's Lottery Bond dollars. Public markets have been proven to drive local economies, foster and sustain the small businesses that make Oregon so special, and encourage overall community growth. This market will be a key catalyst for economic prosperity in Oregon. Please consider prioritizing this important project in this year's budget.

Respectfully,

Andy Fortgang