

December 19, 2025

The Honorable Tina Kotek  
Governor of Oregon  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Kotek,

On behalf of the State Board of Agriculture, I write to express our support for your December 3, 2025, announcement of the Prosperity Roadmap and to ensure that Oregon's founding traded sector, Agriculture and Food & Beverage, is fully integrated into this effort. Agriculture and Food & Beverage have long been cornerstones of Oregon's prosperity, supporting more than 531,000 jobs, anchoring economic activity in every county, and generating an estimated \$2.4 billion in exports with an overall \$42 billion economic impact to the state annually.

On the same day you announced the Prosperity Roadmap, our Board heard from a panel of orchardists at our quarterly Board Meeting in Hood River. Their message was urgent: rising labor costs, complex regulatory frameworks, and regulatory disparities between Oregon and neighboring states have created a challenging economic environment that threatens the long-term viability of one of Oregon's longest standing and iconic agricultural sectors. A November 2025 Oregon State University study highlighted the growing burden of regulation costs, finding that small pear growers pay as much as \$696 per acre in regulatory compliance costs alone, representing as much as 6.6% of total revenue and placing significant strain on already thin operating margins.

We share these challenges with you to highlight that Agriculture and Food & Beverage sit at the intersection of many of your prosperity initiatives: workforce, technology, transportation, energy, permitting, land-use, and domestic and international trade policies. Our sector's perspective and lived experience are uniquely positioned to help inform strategies that strengthen the entire economic system.

We share your assessment: Oregon's economy requires a deliberate and aggressive strategy to retain businesses and accelerate growth. The reports we heard in Hood River are not isolated. Producers statewide report that escalating input costs, regulatory fatigue, and intensifying global competition have narrowed profit margins and pushed family farms to a critical inflection point. As the next generation questions whether they can afford to continue, the consequences threaten the economic stability of Oregon's rural communities.

We believe the Oregon Prosperity Council is the right vehicle to turn these challenges into opportunity. For the Roadmap to succeed, however, it must reflect not only emerging industries, but also the natural-resource economy that provides stability, scale, and statewide reach. We

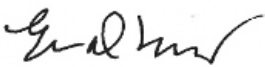
respectfully request the appointment of a representative from the Agriculture and Food & Beverage sector to the Council.

This partnership is essential for three reasons:

- **A stabilizing traded sector:** While technology fuels innovation and high growth, it can be cyclical. Agriculture and Food & Beverage provide durable, statewide economic output sustaining communities across the state through market shifts and economic downturns.
- **A fully integrated rural-urban value chain:** Agriculture uniquely connects rural production, urban processing, and global trade through Oregon's ports. Including this perspective ensures the Prosperity Roadmap advances a truly "One Oregon" economy.
- **Land-use and site-readiness expertise:** We noted your emphasis on industrial site readiness. As stewards of working lands, the agricultural community can help the state navigate land-use tensions in ways that expand economic opportunity while preserving long-term sector viability.

Agriculture and Food & Beverage representation on the council is a necessity for a long-term sustainable economy. The State Board of Agriculture stands ready to partner with you and contribute immediately to the success of the Prosperity Roadmap.

Sincerely,



Elin Miller, Chair  
State Board of Agriculture

CC:

Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Geoff Huntington, Senior Natural Resources Advisor, Office of Governor Tina Kotek  
Courtney Crowell, Regional Solutions Coordinator, Office of Governor Tina Kotek  
Sarah Means, Workforce, Labor, and Higher Education Advisor, Office of Governor Tina Kotek  
Kelly Scannell Brooks, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Economic Development Advisor, Office of Governor Tina Kotek  
Vince Porter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Administration, Office of Governor Tina Kotek