



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

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November 23, 2022

Governor-elect Tina Kotek
Attention: Transition Team
Salem, OR 97301
Delivered via email to: Berri Leslie, DAS

Dear Governor-elect Kotek,

On behalf of the Oregon State Board of Agriculture, we look forward to working with you, and the transition team, to provide ideas and insights and participate in the timing and selection of the new Director of Agriculture. This key appointment is critical to agriculture's continued ability to serve our local communities and people around the world.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is well respected here at home, nationally and in key global markets. We have a great deal of confidence in the current "acting" team which served under the leadership of Director Alexis Taylor who now is in the final stages of confirmation to serve President Biden as USDA Undersecretary of Trade and Foreign Affairs.

Our board consists of a diverse group of individuals spanning coastal, southern, eastern, central, and western Oregon and the Portland metro. Oregon is one of the most diverse agricultural states in the country, proudly producing over 220 agricultural commodities and representing 13% of the state's GDP. The board's experience runs deep in 10 out of 12 of the Oregon's top products: nursery, cattle, hay, dairy, grass seed, wheat, wine grapes, hazelnuts, and blueberries from small to large farm perspectives. We also have experience in organic and biodynamic agriculture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luisa Santamaria".

Luisa Santamaria, PhD
Chair, State Board of Agriculture