



## THE FARM UP LOST CREEK

Kim Johnson  
Bohemia Food Hub  
106 S 10th St.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Dear Kim:

On behalf of The Farm Up Lost Creek, I happily offer this letter of support for Bohemia Food Hub for your grant application titled *"Increasing Opportunities in Central Oregon for Processing, Storage, and Aggregation through Food Hub Expansion"*. The Farm Up Lost Creek is a 22-acre farm in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon. We grow and sell our fresh fruit, jams and fruit preserves at local farmers markets.

We have been working with Bohemia Food Hub for the past year as we move to develop value-added products from our farm fruit. We were also selected by the Lane County Farmers Market as a new farm vendor last year which helped us develop our market booth and provided farm and market mentors. Your kitchen will help us develop shelf-stable products from the perishable food we grow, and will enhance our overall business viability and profitability through diversified sales channels and the ability to make year-round sales. Beyond just directly supporting our business through your services and programming, we are also impressed by your long-term commitment to your tenants and the greater food system. Bohemia Food Hub was born from the true needs of a local food community and continues to set priorities as such. On a recent Rural Business Development Grant, Bohemia Food Hub ensured the funding would prioritize the needs of all tenants by working with us directly to see what equipment would support business growth and expansion. This funding supported the purchase of a dehydrator that will allow us to add new products to our business.

This grant funding will benefit all of the tenants at Bohemia Food Hub as well as countless other producers by increasing and improving storage facilities and creating a smoother production process. For these reasons, we believe that Bohemia Food Hub should be awarded this RFSI grant.

Thank you

Scott Duckett

Owner, The Farm Up Lost Creek  
PO Box 669, Pleasant Hill, Oregon 97455, United States  
scott@thefarmuplostcreek.com



150 Shelton McMurphey Blvd. #204  
Eugene, OR 97401 | (541) 431-4923  
[lanecountyfarmersmarket.org](http://lanecountyfarmersmarket.org)

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Dear Kim:

On behalf of the Lane County Farmers Market, I am thrilled to offer this letter of support for Bohemia Food Hub's grant application "Increasing Opportunities in Central Oregon for Processing, Storage, and Aggregation through Food Hub Expansion" to the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program. We are the largest farmers market in Eugene, Oregon, and provide locally grown foods from over 100 farmers and food artisans. Our markets run 11 months of the year, and all items are grown or produced in Oregon.

We are proud partners with Bohemia Food Hub and are committed to continually referring producers. We recently collaborated on our USDA grant titled "Increasing Accessibility, Reducing On-Farm Waste, and Expanding Sales Opportunities for Lane County Farmers" to subsidize vendor's time spent processing at Bohemia Food Hub. This collaboration jumpstarts local growers and producers into value-added production so they may sell their products beyond the market. We have placed two clients with the Bohemia Food Hub so far, and with their help our vendor's licensed products will be entering a mid-tier value chain of local stores, co-ops, outlets, and restaurants. In connection with our grant, these businesses will be offered a purchasing incentive to acquire these newly-licensed products. This would not be possible without a facility like the Bohemia Food Hub.

As an entity deeply committed to local food and the local food system, it is clear this project will greatly expand the aggregation and processing capacity for small and mid-size farmers in Oregon. We are excited to continue working with Bohemia Food Hub by referring potential vendors and providing other support as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonya Brown".

Sonya Brown (*she/her*)

Program Coordinator

Lane County Farmers Market

[sonya@lanecountyfarmersmarket.org](mailto:sonya@lanecountyfarmersmarket.org)

Kim Johnson  
Bohemia Food Hub  
106 S 10th St.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424



Dear Kim:

On behalf of Wildfire Elixirs, I am honored to offer this letter of support for Bohemia Food Hub regarding your RFSI grant application titled "*Increasing Opportunities in Central Oregon for Processing, Storage, and Aggregation through Food Hub Expansion*". We're a small woman-owned and operated business specializing in fire tonics. Our mission is to bring health and vitality to our community and beyond through plant medicine. We believe healing can come from the green earth around us and its array of medicinal botany serves as a gentle reminder that everything we need is provided by nature.

Wildfire Elixirs is a mid-scale local producer who have been tenants of Bohemia Food Hub for five years. Due to the growth of our business at Bohemia Food Hub up to this point, we have outgrown the existing storage capabilities currently offered. We would directly benefit from the palletized storage and freight shipping options that would become available with the dedicated storage facility upgrade.

This grant funding will allow our business to continue to grow at the scale we have come to expect from our years working with Bohemia Food Hub. We are so grateful for your ability to see a need and fill it for the sake of your tenants. We know that every grant dollar will be put to good use and feed directly back into the community of small producers and budding entrepreneurs. For these reasons, it's imperative that ODA and USDA decide to fund this project.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annie Fisher".

Annie Fisher  
Owner, Wildfire Elixirs  
[www.wildfireelixirs.com](http://www.wildfireelixirs.com)



Kim Johnson  
Bohemia Food Hub  
106 S 10th St.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Dear Kim:

On behalf of Lane County Bounty, I am thrilled to offer this letter of support for Bohemia Food Hub regarding your grant application titled *"Increasing Opportunities in Central Oregon for Processing, Storage, and Aggregation through Food Hub Expansion"* for the RSFI Program. We deliver fresh, organic, farmer's market quality groceries in Eugene and Springfield, including value-added products from multiple tenants of Bohemia Food Hub. From 2020 to 2023, LCB made over 14,000 deliveries and purchased nearly \$350,000 of local food from over 60 small businesses. Our business also has a kitchen production component and has utilized Bohemia Food Hub's kitchen for value-added processing of local food.

As a local producer, buyer, and distributor, we have worked closely with the Bohemia Food Hub team on their farm-to-school program. This program increases access of local, fresh produce and food products into local school districts by partnering closely with Bohemia Food Hub and their network of farmers and food producers. In addition to greatly reducing the distance food is traveling to reach our local schools, it also has increased the volume of quality, nourishing foods being sourced by school kitchens and feeding the developing minds of children in the area.

Expansion of Bohemia Food Hub's storage facility will directly impact our organization by increasing the amount of food we are able to pick up, store, and deliver to local school districts. This will be possible because of the upgrade not only in storage space available but also the upgrades to palletized storage systems and accessible freight pick up and drop off. We believe funding for this program will allow the expansion of Bohemia Food Hub's farm-to-institution network as a whole and further strengthen our partnership and ability to bring farm fresh quality food to people who really need it. For these reasons we would urge this grant to be awarded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelley Schuler". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue background.

Shelley Schuler  
Founder / Farmer, Lane County Bounty  
909 East Beacon Drive, Eugene OR 97404  
info@lanecountybounty.com  
(541) 337-7528



**LANE COUNTY Community & Economic Development Division**

125 East Eighth Avenue, Eugene, OR

February 23, 2024

Gabrielle Ugalde, Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Coordinator  
Oregon Department of Agriculture  
635 Capitol St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support for Bohemia Food Hub’s Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Application**

Dear Ms. Ugalde,

On behalf of Lane County Community and Economic Development, I am thrilled to offer this letter of support for Bohemia Food Hub regarding their grant application titled “Increasing Opportunities in Central Oregon for Processing, Storage, and Aggregation through Food Hub Expansion” to Oregon’s Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program. As a regional convener, catalyst, and connector, the Community and Economic Development program exists to create and support equitable and sustainable economic opportunity across Lane County.

We have been a partner, funder and member of Bohemia Food Hub’s Advisory Committee since 2017 and believe Bohemia Food Hub is proactively transforming the local economy into something of higher value to the community and its residents. In line with the County’s Strategic Plan, we seek to expand and retain local businesses, especially those with strong economic impact. This grant funding will allow Bohemia Food Hub to continue its growth by constructing much-needed infrastructure. We believe this will support local businesses, secure local jobs, and have a much broader, positive economic impact to our county via the Food Hub’s impact on local farms and food businesses.

The food and beverage sector has long been an area of focus for Lane County Community and Economic Development as an impact industry. It is critical that we support impact industries, which typically pay higher than Lane County average wages, are resilient to economic fluctuations, provide full family benefits to employees, complement existing sectors, and contribute to sustainable job growth in the region. For all these reasons and more, we urge ODA and USDA to fund this project.

Sincerely,

Jenna Cusimano  
Interim Manager, Community & Economic Development  
(541) 682-3747  
Jenna.Cusimano@lanecountyor.gov

Kim Johnson  
Bohemia Food Hub  
106 S 10th St.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

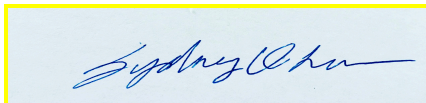
Dear Kim:

On behalf of the Oregon Food Hub Network, I am thrilled to offer this letter of support for Bohemia Food Hub regarding your grant application titled *“Increasing Opportunities in Central Oregon for Processing, Storage, and Aggregation through Food Hub Expansion”* to the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program. The Oregon Food Hub Network is a project of the Oregon Community Food Systems Network. It is a peer learning community of local food hub projects around the state. These projects include nonprofit organizations, farmers, ranchers, and fishermen, small food businesses, rural economic development agencies, and others. The network began convening in February 2019 and includes both established and developing hub projects. The Oregon Community Food Systems Network is a collaboration of nonprofit organizations and allies dedicated to strengthening local and regional food systems to deliver better economic, social, health, and environmental outcomes across the state.

The Oregon Food Hub Network is committed to growing and strengthening Oregon food supply chains. We can attest that the state of Oregon is in need of additional regional scale cold and dry storage space, as well as the ability for cross-docking partnerships in the middle of the state to assist in cross-state shipping of food.

An investment in Bohemia Food Hub to expand cold and dry stage capabilities will allow them the infrastructure needed to develop a cross-docking program and revolutionize opportunities for Oregon farmers to move their food goods across the state. Because Cottage Grove, Oregon is centrally located within the state between major urban areas, this is an excellent location for efficient transport of both shelf-stable and perishable goods moving from one side of the state to the other. We are eager to see the completion of this project as it will positively impact so many local producers and urge the RFSI program to provide the requested funding.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box with a yellow border containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sydney DeLuna".

Sydney DeLuna  
Oregon Food Hub Network Coordinator, Oregon Community Food Systems Network  
P.O. Box 82402 Portland, OR 97282  
sdeuna@luna-bird.com



Kim Johnson  
Bohemia Food Hub  
106 S 10th St.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Dear Kim:

On behalf of Pink Wagon Foods, I am thrilled to offer this letter of support for Bohemia Food Hub's grant application *"Increasing Opportunities in Central Oregon for Processing, Storage, and Aggregation through Food Hub Expansion"* to the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program. We started Pink Wagon Foods to make life easier for the home chef and bring delicious, pickled onions made from fresh, local, ingredients to their kitchen table.

We have been working with Bohemia Kitchen Hub for three years and have used the facilities to get our business to the place it is today. As a local producer of a shelf-stable product, the expansion of Bohemia Food Hub's storage space to include temperature-controlled, palletized dry storage, and efficient access for freight shipping will bring increased opportunities for our growing business. This change will allow us to increase the amount of stored product we can keep at Bohemia and, in turn, ship out at a more efficient rate. This will increase our overall business and revenue, while also allowing us to add larger wholesale partners with higher freight minimums.

This grant funding is exciting not only because it will support our business directly, but also because of how it will support every entrepreneur working with Bohemia Food Hub. We have experienced first hand how Bohemia Food Hub can turn a small idea into a thriving business. With each investment into Bohemia, there is a rippling effect that touches each part of the Bohemia Food Hub Network and our broader community as a whole. For these reasons, we are huge supporters of this project and believe that there is no business within Oregon more qualified to receive this imperative funding.

Sincerely,

Tina Welch  
Owner, Pink Wagon Foods  
3308 Arrowhead St. Eugene, OR 97404  
1-971-350-9380



Located at 7th & Main St. Cottage Grove  
PO Box 178 Dorena, OR  
Manager@southvalleyfarmersmarket.org

Kim Johnson  
Bohemia Food Hub  
106 S 10th St.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Dear Kim:

On behalf of the South Valley Farmers Market, I am thrilled to offer this letter of support for Bohemia Food Hub's grant application "*Increasing Opportunities in Central Oregon for Processing, Storage, and Aggregation through Food Hub Expansion*" to the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program. We are a local farmers market offering the southern Willamette Valley access to farm fresh produce and artisan goods, directly from the farmers and producers, in Downtown Cottage Grove, Oregon.

We believe strongly in the need for support for our local food system, particularly in more opportunities for our local producers. We previously worked with Bohemia Food Hub on the South Valley Food Producer Survey and partnered on their Healthy Food Finance Initiative submission. We are committed to continuing that partnership by referring producers to Bohemia Food Hub.

This grant funding will support producers by strengthening their diversified income streams and providing a larger connection to the food system as a whole. We look forward to working with Bohemia Food Hub, connecting producers to the project, and participating in ways as yet undefined.

Sincerely,

Tassia Fahsbender  
Manager, South Valley Farmers Market  
manager@southvalleyfarmersmarket.org



Kim Johnson  
Bohemia Food Hub  
106 S 10th St.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Dear Kim:

On behalf of the City of Cottage Grove, Oregon, I am thrilled to offer this letter of support for Bohemia Food Hub regarding your grant application titled *"Increasing Opportunities in Central Oregon for Processing, Storage, and Aggregation through Food Hub Expansion"* to Oregon's Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program.

Our City strongly supports local food initiatives. Since 2019, we have been a partner and funder of Bohemia Food Hub. In 2019, Cottage Grove applied for and was awarded planning assistance through the Local Foods, Local Places program to develop an action plan for growing our existing and emerging food assets in tandem with our ongoing efforts at downtown revitalization and place-making. Our city was selected as one of 16 communities across the United States to participate in the program in 2020. We learned through this program that additional storage for food businesses and producers needed to be a major priority in building out the infrastructure of our region. Bohemia Food Hub has been diligently working to build and improve our local food system for years and this project will only greatly enhance their ability to do so.

Bohemia Food Hub's application for the RFSI program is in line with our city's mission. We believe Kim and her team are well suited to carry out this project, and it is in the best interest of our local community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Faye Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Faye Stewart  
Public Works & Development Director  
City of Cottage Grove  
400 E. Main St.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424  
[pwdirector@cottagegrove.org](mailto:pwdirector@cottagegrove.org)



Kim Johnson  
Bohemia Food Hub  
106 S 10th St.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Dear Kim:

On behalf of Hot Winter Hot Sauce, I am excited to offer this letter of support for Bohemia Food Hub regarding your grant application titled *"Increasing Opportunities in Central Oregon for Processing, Storage, and Aggregation through Food Hub Expansion"* to the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program. We are a small-batch hot sauce company based in Oregon, and we are dedicated to making the freshest and most flavorful hot sauces made with locally grown, organic ingredients. We work directly with small-scale farmers to source the highest-quality peppers, and use traditional fermentation techniques to unlock the full flavor and nutritional potential of our ingredients.

As a seven-year tenant and partner of Bohemia Food Hub, we have seen first-hand how you have worked diligently to adapt your systems and infrastructure in direct support of your tenants needs. Working with Bohemia Food Hub has allowed us to grow our business in ways we never thought imaginable, and on an expedited timeline with the tools and support we needed every step of the way. You are an exceptional community resource and we look forward to seeing the expansion of the storage facility, and with that, an expansion of the shared use kitchens.

If awarded, this grant funding will directly support our business by allowing us to further scale and increase overall revenue. Our business has reached a point where palletized storage and freight shipping options are imperative to take our business to the next level. This shift will allow us to further develop our relationships with existing clients and add waitlist customers that we have had to put on hold due to the logistical storage constraints that currently exist at Bohemia Food Hub. For these reasons, we urge this grant to be awarded.

All the best,

Kristen Penner  
Owner, Hot Winter Hot Sauce  
orders@hotwinterhotsauce.com