Northwest FARM CREDIT SERVICES

October 2, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Northwest FCS supports agriculture and rural communities with consistent and reliable credit and other financial services, today and tomorrow. In Oregon, we employ 100 people at our 11 locations to serve over 4,000 customers statewide. Those customers represent growers, processors and marketers of Oregon's highly diverse agriculture, food and fiber industries. The diversity stems not only from growing over 240 crops, but also in the food systems employed. For example, Oregon ranks 5th for the number of organic farms and is among the top 10 for local food systems and farmers market collaborations. There are many elements to diversity of Oregon agriculture.

The recognition by CAS faculty of the need to update the Agricultural Business Management degree to Agricultural and Food Business Management is timely. We recruit future Northwest FCS trusted advisors from Oregon State Universities College of Agricultural Sciences graduates every year. While those graduates continue to impress us with their academic preparations, the proposed degree title change more aptly describes the expectations we have as an employer and the foundational knowledge they must have to serve our customers. We serve all agriculture – not just small or big. Therefore, we are looking for graduates who understand our diverse agriculture and food systems today.

For those reasons, I support the recommendation to change the Agricultural Business Management degree to Agricultural and Food Business Management.

Sincerely,

Northwest FARM CREDIT SERVICES

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