July 15, 2017

Oregon State University

Human Research Protection Program, Institutional Review Board

B308 Kerr Administration

Corvallis, OR 97331-2140

RE: Public Health Workforce Capacity to Build Social Cohesion and Resilient Food Systems

Dear Institutional Review Board Chair and Members,

On behalf of the Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO), I write this letter in support of the research project led by Dr. Veronica Irvin of Oregon State University entitled *Public Health Workforce Capacity to Build Social Cohesion and Resilient Food Systems.*  This project, formed in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority’s Climate and Health Program, was determined to be a priority through the Oregon Climate and Health Resilience planning process.

The two subject areas of the study, ‘social cohesion’ and ‘resilient food systems’, are two areas of interest among local public health practitioners. Many of our programs within local health departments intersect with these topics, yet understanding of the concepts and our capacity to advance work in these areas is varied and largely unknown.

As a partnering agency, we will assist with distributing recruitment materials to our local public health practitioners across the state and in encouraging participation among our workforce. We understand that this research will be performed following sound ethical principles, that participation in the research project will be strictly voluntary, and that participation will provide confidentiality, as described in the protocol.

In my capacity as an authorized signatory for the Coalition of Local Health Officers, I indicate my support of Dr. Irvin’s research project.

Thank you,

Charlie Fautin

CLHO Chair