

From the Desk of Representative David Gomberg

Industry Leaders in Support of SB 816

To support a vibrant economy, create jobs and new business opportunities across our state, and develop a highly skilled workforce ready to lead us into future prosperity, Oregonowned breweries, wineries, and distilleries are asking you to pass Senate Bill 816 and invest \$2.5 million to bolster our homegrown and high growth industries.

Now is the time for the State of Oregon to invest in innovation. We hope our friends in the legislature see the potential we see in SB 816, and share our belief that Oregon should invest in what and where we are already succeeding. This potential is illustrated in **reports such as the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, which found every \$1 spent on agricultural research leads to \$10 in economic benefit.** The innovative agriculture research and market analysis outlined in SB 816, will help ensure our producer industries are poised to continue the rapid growth of recent decades.

While local producers are enjoying the recent wave of interest and accolades brought on by this growth, we are also seeing competitors in other states reap the benefits of substantial public investment in fermentation sciences. This session, the legislature has the opportunity to support vital industry research that will give Oregon breweries, wineries and distilleries a competitive advantage and skilled workforce. And we'll see the payoff in no time, in real and sustained job growth.

Research is the lifeblood of agriculture-based products. Through this investment, the AES Fermentation Sciences program can focus on Oregon-specific science and economic research, train a highly skilled workforce, and develop competitive advantages for selling our products across the globe.

We are among the many Oregon-owned companies who strongly support this investment in 2013.

