

**To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

**From: Matthew Merritt, General Counsel, Oregon Brewing Company**

**Re: SB 287**

**Date: February 13, 2019**

I write in support of SB 287, the farm brewery bill. SB 287 would give farm breweries the same land use rights that the legislature gave to wineries in 2013 (SB 841) and cidermakers in 2017 (SB 677). It would allow farm breweries to conduct limited agri-tourism or other commercial events on land zoned for exclusive farm use or mixed farm and forest use.

Like wine and cider, beer is fundamentally an agricultural product. SB 287 allows farm breweries to showcase this fact. Just like wineries can have visitors come see the grapes from which their wine is made, and just like cideries can have visitors see the apples from which their cider is made, farm breweries should be able to have visitors come see the hops and other ingredients that go into their beers.

Rogue's farm in Independence, OR is a perfect example. Situated in the heart of Oregon hop country, on a bend in the Willamette River, our farm grows hops, marionberries, pumpkins and other ingredients that we use in our beers. Visitors to our farm can touch, smell, and taste the ingredients that are in the Rogue beer they are drinking. SB 287 ensures that this can happen.

Like SB 677 (and SB 841 before it), SB 287 strikes the appropriate balance between economic activity and preservation of farm and forest lands. It contains sensible acreage minimums, barrelage maximums, and other guardrails to ensure that agri-tourism or commercial events are appropriate in scale.

SB 677 and SB 841 passed the legislature unanimously--this bill should too. Please support SB 287 and put farm breweries on an even playing field with wineries and cideries.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about this testimony at [mmerritt@rogue.com](mailto:mmerritt@rogue.com).