



April 15, 2019

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain

On behalf of Craft Brew Alliance (CBA) (NASDAQ: BREW), I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the Oregon State University Fermentation Science program, and to communicate a desire to see this program continue to receive the full amount of funding for which it is eligible.

CBA currently employs about 700 employees nationwide, and a significant portion of us are based at our Portland, OR headquarters. While we have several brewing facilities outside of Oregon, our North Portland Widmer Brothers Brewing Company is our flagship brewing location. Widmer Brothers started brewing in the 1980s and has been working w/ OSU for over 20 years. As the largest brewery in Oregon and one of the largest craft brewers in the world we have a complex set of needs. Throughout time, our partnership with the OSU team has helped us maintain an edge over the increasingly crowded market place through a variety of means.

First, in my 23+ years at CBA we have hired almost 20 of the Program's graduates. These graduates have primarily filled technical roles in Brewing, Quality, and Packaging and several of them have eventually moved into top managerial roles. CBA places a great value on getting itself in front of the new crop of graduates every year in hopes of attracting some of the best industry talent.

CBA has also utilized the OSU Fermentation Science Program for several major consumer facing projects. All three of the major projects we have completed w/ OSU have been about beer sensory, ranging from product development, consumer flavor/aroma preferences with a technical brewing science overlay, and product flavor stability across time. Each of these projects benefited CBA in a unique way that ultimately led to us making new decisions, better decisions, decisions that ultimately led to the betterment of our operations and the growth of the company.

Some of our more recent work w/ OSU has been with regards to hop usage and hop chemistry. In today's craft beer market hops rule the roost. OSU has had a constant stream of peer reviewed hop research making its way to brewers and the beer industry. This information helps brewers optimize their hop usage to get the most from the least. This has impacts on the economics of the brewing companies for sure, but, from a higher-level perspective it also impacts overall agricultural sustainability in terms of raw material usage and the energy required to grow and manage those materials.

Beyond hops, CBA also works with the OSU barley breeders through our participation in the American Malting Barley Association (AMBA). AMBA routinely grants OSU barley researcher monies that are proving critical to the advancement of new, better, more flavorful public barley varieties.

Other recent OSU Fermentation Science Program additives have included investments into the hiring of two internationally known professors with expertise in Microbiology and Distilling respectively, as well as the commissioning of a new, highly sophisticated pilot research brewery. Microbiology and Distilling are two of the few remaining frontiers in craft brewing and through these professors OSU has the chance to further cement itself as the premier Fermentation Science program in the USA, if not the world.

In conclusion I'd like to reiterate that the success of the Oregon State University Fermentation Science program has been a piece of the success of our Oregon based brewery business. The program is graduating high numbers of very well trained, and well experienced, students that are having a real impact within the brewing industry in general, not to mention at CBA as well. Continued, government based, financial support to the OSU Fermentation Science program will ensure this utility and prominence remains.

Joe Casey
Senior Manager of Brewing and Raw Materials
Craft Brew Alliance
Portland, OR

929 N Russell St, Portland, OR 97227
www.craftbrew.com

