

I am writing to support the 2.68 million dollar request from the ARPA funding to go to Oregon State University for their Wildfire Smoke Research lab.

I am writing as the currently serving president of the Chehalem Mts Winegrowers, encompassing Washington, Yamhill, and Clackamas counties, and the owner of Dion Vineyard in Cornelius, a 40+ year old vineyard and winery.

- With the increasing chance of wildfires in Oregon's forested regions from climate change, this research becomes more urgent and necessary
- In 2020 we had to rely on out-of-state testing facilities that were already established (although OSU spun up as quickly as they could), and out-of-state testing will default to prioritize out-of-state requests and resources. California was impossible to submit Oregon grapes or juice to be tested, and even one of our largest customers with a lot of economic and industry influence was unable to get reliable and timely results out of Seattle.
- Given the widespread, fast, and potentially devastating impacts of wildfire smoke, when you need it, you need a lot and you need it fast. We need it in-state.
- OSU has been great support to the Oregon wine industry – taking leadership in smoke research would further raise the profile of the wine industry and our educational and research resources in Oregon. The benefits are statewide.
- Having research and testing available in-state helps protect an industry that employs everyone from agricultural workers to small businesses, to restaurant and hospitality workers – all of whom have been adversely impacted by wildfires and COVID-19.

Thank you for your consideration.

Beth Klingner

Dion Vineyard

Chehalem Mts Winegrowers