



June 9, 2023

Co-Chair Michael Dembrow
Co-Chair Khanh Pham
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham, members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Wine Council, which represents over fifty percent of Oregon Wine grapes, grown, produced, and sold, I am writing to express our support for the water policies outlined in the -6 amendment to HB 2010.

The water management programs and requirements outlined in the -6 amendment represent reasonable policies that will benefit growers in many agricultural industries. We are particularly supportive of the provision that would establish an agricultural water management technical assistance program at OSU's Extension and Experiment station. We appreciate that the program is specifically centered on improving "on-farm water management practices." This emphasis on working directly with producers is a concept welcomed by many of our members, as we hope it will serve its purpose of building collaborative relationships with water and land managers.

As you know, sustainable water management is a critical issue for so many growers, but particularly for those in the wine industry. An inability to access water would be catastrophic for wine grape growers, particularly those with developing grape vines that require access to water in order to grow and eventually produce. The drought in Southern Oregon in recent years has punctuated this critical need for sustainable water management.

We believe that the programs outlined in the -6 amendment to HB 2010 will provide important tools to ensure sustainable water management and access for years to come in all regions of our state. We urge you to support the -6 amendment to HB 2010.

Sincerely,

Fawn Barrie
Executive Director
Oregon Wine Council