

**TO: Ways & Means SubCommittee on Education
Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair**

DT: April 12th, 2023

RE: HB 5025 - Support of OSU Fermentation Program

Co-Chairs & Members of the Committee:

As a member of Oregon's fermented food and beverage sector, I am writing to express my strong support for the OSU Fermentation Sciences in HB 5025. The fermentation program needs the HECC requested amount which will allow the program to continue delivering exceptional educational opportunities to current and future students.

I graduated from the OSU Fermentation Sciences program in 2008 and was setup for success from such a great education. I was fortunate to get an amazing winemaking position right out of school and was able to do so because of the support of the professors and staff involved in the OSU Fermentation Sciences program. I have watched the Oregon wine industry grow exponentially over the last 20 years and I know that we need the support of OSU Fermentation Sciences for continued research and access to skilled employees. This is not only true in the wine industry but also in many other industries involved in fermentation of beverages and food here in Oregon. At my current winery in the Dundee Hills, Vinovate Wine Services, we have multiple employees and interns that have graduated from the OSU Fermentation Sciences program.

The fermentation program provided me with a degree that opened doors to an exciting career within a sector with plentiful job opportunities for scientists, operators, product developers, and entrepreneurs. Please help provide this opportunity to future students. I graduated from the OSU fermentation program and have been employed in the industry ever since. This is a program that supports Oregon's food and beverage industry and develops graduates with great career opportunities. I strongly encourage you to provide continued funding to the fermentation program.

Sincerely,



Bryan Weil
Managing Partner/Winemaker
Vinovate Wine Services