

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

DT: April 13, 2023

RE: HB 5025 - Support of OSU Fermentation Program

Co-Chairs & Members of the Committee:

As a member of Oregon's food and beverage sector and as the first woman graduate of OSU's fermentation program, 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.

Graduates from the OSU fermentation program work at and/or lead many of Oregon's wineries, breweries, cideries, distilleries, and cheese companies. Their skills and knowledge are critical to maintaining the reputational excellence that our food and beverage products enjoy nationally and internationally.

Moreover, the impact of the OSU's fermentation program extends beyond Oregon's fermented food and beverage sector. The program attracts many students that may not otherwise have chosen a STEM field. These scientifically-trained graduates work in all areas of Oregon's food sector and their skills will be necessary as the Oregon food industry changes and adapts to new demands.

My fermentation degree has provided me a truly satisfying and productive career and I've been fortunate to hire several fermentation graduates over the years. Please help the Fermentation Science program to continue. We need those graduates in our food community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Just', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jessica Just

incoming Director of Operations – Jacobsen Salt Co.
former General Manger Fermentation & Enology – Scott Laboratories
former Director of Technical Services – Brew Dr. Kombucha