



TO: Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair

Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair

DT: April 26, 2023

RE: HB 5025 - Support of OSU Statewides- Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Lab

Co-Chairs & Members of the Committee:

As a member of Oregon's food and beverage sector, I am writing to express my strong support for the OSU Statewides' budget in HB 5025.

OSU Statewides contribute greatly to Oregon's food and beverage sector through applied research and distribution of knowledge through OSU's statewide Extension network. It is important that the OSU Statewides receive continued service level funding and receive focus on sustainable food systems.

In my business, A to Z Wineworks, have had the direct experience of working with and support from OSU's Sustainable Food Science and Technology Department and Extension network many times. However, one time in particular that stands out is in 2020 when Oregon faced devastating wildfires across the state. When no other private lab was able to OSU stepped in and helped my winery and the entire Oregon wine industry identify smoke taint compounds in effected grapes and provide timely and extremely valuable mitigation strategies for that taint. Due to this help we were able to work with growers across the state on contracts worth millions of dollars and mitigate the effects of the smoke in our wines. Due to these mitigation strategies we were able to save hundreds of thousands of gallons of wine.

Furthermore, an investment in OSU's Resilient Food Systems initiative will advance sustainable food systems within the state to address environmental concerns, grow Oregon's food and beverage economy, diversify and strengthen Oregon's food community, develop future leaders in food science and sustainable technologies.

Additionally, an increased investment in the OSU Statewides will provide regional support of local food and beverage entrepreneurs. With the investment sustainable food technology experts will be placed regionally to consult and connect food businesses with the existing food innovation centers in urban and rural areas helping underserved communities.

Lastly, innovation specialists will support the Master Food Preservers programming contributing to delivering affordable, adequate and accessible food across Oregon. An emphasis on regional food production will create jobs and commercial activities in rural small sized towns and support of Oregon's local and regional food hubs across the state will enhance the viability of regional food markets beyond direct-to-consumer sales.

Sincerely,

Sam Tannahill

Founder and Winegrower, A to Z Wineworks and REX HILL