



**Oregon
Winegrowers**
ASSOCIATION EST 1981

**Testimony on SB 138 & HB 2062
Submitted by Oregon Winegrowers Association
Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures
May 30, 2023**

Co-Chairs Meek and Nathanson, and members of the joint committee, the Oregon Winegrowers Association is writing in support of SB 138 and HB 2062, both of which would extend the Rural Industrial Improvement Property Tax Exemption Act.

For more than 40 years, the Oregon Winegrowers Association has been the leading advocate for the health, growth and economic sustainability of Oregon's wine industry. We represent hundreds of wineries and vineyards throughout the state, and our members account for two thirds of all wine produced in Oregon. Our focus is on promoting policies that enhance valued added agriculture and economic vitality for Oregon, in particular for rural communities.

This is one reason why we are asking the legislature to extend the Rural Industrial Improvement Property Tax Exemption Act, which was enacted in 2016.

We support giving local governments the tools to encourage rural business growth and investment. The Rural Industrial Improvement Property Tax Exemption Act is a voluntary program for counties and cities that wish to incentivize industrial improvement with property tax deferrals or exemptions.

We are pleased that Marion County has implemented this program, which has led to some successful outcomes for industrial developments that have created and retained needed rural jobs.

We hope other counties that have a thriving wine industry within its borders will consider adopting this permissive program that would undoubtedly spur the expansion of winery operations. Extending the Rural Industrial Improvement Property Tax Exemption Act is an important first step.

We respectfully ask the Joint Tax Expenditures Committee and the legislature to pass SB 138 or HB 2062. Thank you on behalf of Oregon's wine industry.