



On behalf of the Oregon Wine Council, I write to express our strong support for the proposed appropriation of two million dollars to the State Department of Agriculture to eradicate Japanese beetle grubs.

Although grapevines may not face the most direct threat from this invasive species, many other crops in Oregon—from nursery stock to specialty fruits and vegetables—are at high risk. **Our viticultural community stands with these growers in the shared goal of eliminating this pest before it causes substantial damage to farms and ecosystems across the state.**

This funding is critical for several reasons:

**Preserving Oregon Agriculture as a Whole**

The eradication efforts benefit all stakeholders in the agricultural sector. Even though wine grapes may not face the greatest threat relative to some other crops, our members support proactive measures to prevent any further spread, recognizing that harm to one sector can ripple through the entire agricultural economy.

**Protecting Jobs and Rural Communities**

The combined vitality of Oregon's various farms underpins the economic fabric of our communities. By supporting a robust state response, we help ensure the stability of farmworker jobs, local businesses, and the many other enterprises that rely on healthy harvests.

**Ensuring Prompt Action**

Taking proactive measures against pests helps ensure the problem does not grow exponentially. Once pest issues reach crisis levels, they become even more complex and more expensive (if not impossible) to contain.

**Fostering Collaborative Solutions**

Our industry is prepared to cooperate with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, other agricultural groups, and extension services to share research findings, best practices, and resources. Coordinated efforts will be instrumental in preventing widespread infestation while minimizing potential adverse impacts on soils, beneficial insects, and neighboring farms.

We commend the Legislature and Senator Fredrick for focusing on dealing with invasive species that threaten our agriculture industry. Thank you for supporting measures that protect Oregon's vineyards, farms, and natural resources for today's growers and future generations alike.

Sincerely,

**Fawn Barrie**

**Executive Director**

**Oregon Wine Council**