



**Letter of Support for SB 816  
Senate Rural Communities  
& Economic Development Committee  
April 4, 2013**

**Submitted by the Oregon Winegrowers Association**

The Oregon Winegrowers Association (OWA) urges your support for SB 816 establishing an Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) Fermentation Sciences and Value Added Program at Oregon State University.

The Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) Fermentation Sciences and Value Added Program will provide technical, research and marketing support for Oregon agricultural products like wine grapes whose value is increased through the fermentation process. As the Oregon wine industry continues on its growth trajectory, viticulture and enology research can help the industry meet challenges posed by a changing climate as well as evolving pest and disease complexes. A well-trained workforce is crucial to the industry's continued development, in addition to expanding markets for high-value Oregon products like wine. These objectives can be supported through the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) Fermentation Sciences and Value Added Program.

Oregon's 900 vineyards and 450 wineries have a combined economic impact of more than \$2.7 billion annually, supporting around 13,000 jobs. The Oregon wine industry represents one of the state's most important strategic agricultural industries and the wine industry also is a key driver of tourism in the state. The Oregon wine industry nearly doubled between 2005 and 2011 despite the worst consumer recession in its history.

Thank you for considering SB 816 and OWA asks for your support.