

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	8 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Barnhart, Berger, Dembrow, Hicks, Holvey, Jenson, Kennemer, Garrett
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Hoyle
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Designates *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* as official microbe of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Economic impact of craft brewing in Oregon
- History of craft brewing in Oregon
- Significance of brewer's yeast
- Strain of yeast used in brewing of Rogue Ales
- Emblems that represent state and cultural heritage
- Cultural symbolism of pubs as centerpiece of community
- Number of microbreweries in Oregon and Northwest
- Top-fermenting versus bottom-fermenting
- Difference between ale and lager yeast strains

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is a species of yeast. It is perhaps the most useful yeast, having been instrumental to winemaking, baking and brewing. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is essential to the production of alcoholic beverages such as mead, wine, beer and distilled spirits.

Oregon has a long history, dating back to 1856 when Henry Weinhard opened his first brewery, as the home of fine quality craft beer. In 1985, following the legalization of brewpubs, the craft brewery industry took off with the establishment of Bridgeport Brewing, opening of the first McMenemy's first brewpub, Full Sail, the first craft brewery in the Northwest to bottle its beers, and Deschutes Brewery.

With more craft breweries and brewpubs per capita than any other city in the United States, Portland has been proclaimed "America's Microbrew Capital." Unofficially, it's "Beervana." Over the past few years, a new generation of brewers has emerged, leading to the opening of small, independent brew pubs and making unique, individualized beers. As of March, 2013, Oregon is home to 169 brewing facilities in 61 cities, with the Portland metro area being the largest craft brewing market in the U.S., with 69 breweries. Oregon's brewing companies employ 5650 full and part-time employees with a total economic impact of \$2.44 billion.

Oregon is one of three states to consider adoption of a state microbe: Wisconsin lawmakers considered recognition of a microbe found in cheese and the Hawaii Legislature is considering a bill that would adopt a bacterium as its official microbe. If the Oregon Legislature adopts House Concurrent Resolution 12, it could be the first state to officially adopt a state microbe.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.