



OREGON
WINEGROWERS
ASSOCIATION

**Testimony on HB 3464
House Rules Committee
Submitted by Oregon Winegrowers Association
June 8, 2017**

Chair Williamson and members of the House Rules Committee,

The Oregon Winegrowers Association is the only statewide organization that represents Oregon's wineries and vineyards and we strongly support HB 3464. The Oregon wine industry has seen remarkable growth over the past ten years, producing some of the best wines in the world and reinvigorating Oregon's rural economy.

A robust labor market is critical to the success of not only Oregon's wine industry, but the agricultural sector as a whole. One of our members' top concerns is the lack of available labor. Our industry was already facing a labor shortage and recent changes in federal immigration enforcement policies have compounded the problem. As a result of these changes, we've seen a "chilling effect" where even if an employee is here legally, their husband, wife or child may not be, causing them to be afraid to drive to work or take their children to school.

In April, the OWA co-hosted an Immigration Forum with other ag industry groups to educate our members about how best to comply with federal immigration enforcement policies. Though we will continue these outreach efforts, more clarity from governmental entities is needed. HB 3464 is a step in the right direction by creating a consistent and streamlined process for public entities to comply with federal immigration laws, helping address the chilling effect mentioned above. The OWA strongly encourages you to support this legislation.