

February 12, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

The Oregon Legislature should support Senator Roblan's new bill granting agritourism rights to farm-based breweries. It would represent sensible and important progress that support an exciting new part of Oregon's brewing industry.

I grew up on Springbrook Farm—one of Oregon's century farms, which is on the National Historic Registry—east of Newberg, and my family has been continuously farming hazelnuts (or filberts, as we call them) there since the late 1960s. After college, I received a grant to study rural and farm breweries across Europe, many of which date back generations and are celebrated for their beers using local ingredients. I was inspired to build such an operation here on our own family farm. With the bounty of Oregon's agriculture, I believe it is the perfect place for farm breweries to thrive, providing opportunities for families to diversify and sustain their farms.

In May 2016, after years of hard work, those dreams were realized when I opened Wolves & People Farmhouse Brewery. Since that day, I'm proud to say we have gained local, regional, and national recognition for the quality of our beers—which use many ingredients grown on our own farm and nearby farms—and for the quality of our visitor experience, which has helped draw many tourists to Newberg. For example, guests can see hazelnut and plum trees just a few steps from our taproom, and then taste those same ingredients in certain beers. The 21.5-acre farm is home to a substantial hazelnut orchard as well as many plum, apple, pear, fig and other fruit trees, as well as several bee hives, vegetable gardens, a few hop vines, and a test plot of barley which we are developing with the help of Oregon State's barley research program. Our hope is to one day plant more barley, hops, and stone fruits on our own land and perhaps adjoining farms. Hosting agritourism events on our property helps us reach that goal, supports the diversification of our farm, and creates more jobs.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

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