

February 24, 2019

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

Senator James Manning, Jr. (Co-Chair)

Representative David Gomberg (Co-Chair)

Senator Jeff Golden

Senator Bill Hansell

Representative Paul Evans

Representative Gary Leif

Representative Rachel Prusak

Representative Duane Stark

900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: 2019-2021 Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

We would like to confirm our support for the Governor's Regional Solutions Program and one of its important tools, which is the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) within Business Oregon's budget.

We recognize the importance of putting dollars on the ground with local authorities to support regional infrastructure priority projects. We have found a true benefit in the role of the Regional Solutions program in our community due to the program's ability to identify priorities, solve problems, and seize opportunities to get specific projects completed. In addition to the Regional Solutions Committee and Team helping with project coordination, streamlining, and facilitation, the RIF had a significant impact on our priority project.

The RIF grant awarded our project \$150,000 in matching funds to design and construct Biodynamic gardens at our Bernau Estate Biodynamic Wine & Agriculture Experience near Dundee, Oregon. This first of its kind experience will welcome the public to learn about Biodynamic farming practices and the benefits to the environment and our health through a working farm and production facility. Our location off Highway 99 in Dundee, the heart of Oregon Wine Country, make this a prime site for promoting this agricultural practice and Oregon's leading role in sustainable farming through an eco-tourism experience. The funding of the gardens is a critical portion of the project as it supports the whole site plan that includes an 18-acre vineyard, permitted winery and tasting room planned opening fall 2020. We anticipate revenues from the customer experience and sales of our wines to be \$4-\$6 million dollars annually from this investment, which is an increase to our current small business. Annual payroll is expected to be approximately \$1.2 million dollars and operating expenses are forecasted at \$830,000. Over a 30-year life span, this would result in \$120-\$180 million in revenues, \$36 million in wages, and nearly \$25 million in expenses, in 2018 equivalents. We plan to create an estimated 23 full-time jobs and 10 part-time jobs to operate the business. All of our full-time employees are granted health benefits, 401k retirement match at 4% and paid time off.

We appreciate your support of the RIF and its benefit to regionally significant projects for our communities.

Sincerely,



Christine Clair
Winery Director
Willamette Valley Vineyards
8800 Enchanted Way SE
Turner, Oregon 97392