



TO: The Joint Ways & Means Education Subcommittee

DA: April 16, 2019

RE: Support for Continued State Funding of OSU's Fermentation Sciences Program

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain and members of the Education Subcommittee,

As Oregon winery owners and employers, we are writing to express our support for Oregon State University's Fermentation Sciences Program and the state resources that enable it to thrive.

Since King Estate's founding in 1991, we have watched the Oregon wine industry grow in size and quality, drawing national and international attention for its innovation and excellence. Over the last decade, employment at Oregon wineries has increased by 59 percent, and the industry contributed well over \$3B to the states' economy last year alone. There is still so much potential to be realized, but the sustained quality and growth of the Oregon wine industry depends on continued research and workforce development - two areas that Oregon State's Fermentation Sciences Program focuses on.

The Fermentation Science Program is one of only two comprehensive fermentation science programs in the United States and the only program to offer distillation. This program plays a critical role in addressing the needs of Oregon's fermentation industries by developing the workforce of tomorrow and leading the research and development of sustainable production methods necessary to address new diseases, pests and our ever evolving climatic conditions.

The State's investment in this program has allowed OSU to provide hands-on training and more than double the number of graduates with degrees in viticulture and enology or fermentation sciences in recent years. King Estate has proudly employed a number of these highly trained, industry professionals who have added significant value to our products and business.

An investment in the Fermentation Sciences program is an investment in Oregon's economic future. We encourage the Legislature's continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed & Jodee King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "K" at the end.

Ed & Jodee King and the King family
King Estate Winery