



Nikos Ridge

Ninkasi Brewing Company

4-15-19

Sen. Frederick, Rep. McLain,

I am writing on behalf on everyone at Ninkasi Brewing Company, to express my support for the OSU Fermentation Science program, and would highly recommend continuing to fully fund the program moving forward, due to all the benefits it brings to Oregon businesses and consumers.

Oregon is known as one of the premier states in the nation for its leadership in food and beverage. Our industry (Craft Beer) has been one of the most visible representations of this position across the nation, and has benefited greatly from the resources that OSU brings in support of the industry. The craft beer industry brings jobs, tourists, and good cheer to areas all across Oregon!

Ninkasi has been in business for 13 years and in that time we have added close to 100 new jobs in Eugene, have invested 10's of millions of dollars in construction and infrastructure to grow our business, and support over 5.5 million dollars in annual payroll and benefits for employees. Several of these employees gained skills and experience in the OSU fermentation science program that were directly applicable to their jobs at Ninkasi, and supported our growth as a company.

Additionally we have benefited from access to laboratory and R&D capabilities, recently releasing a whole new line of products with support from the team at OSU. They are always available to brainstorm and troubleshoot if we encounter an issue in our business that needs another perspective. The teams and programs available at OSU have greatly benefited Ninkasi over the years.

I appreciate your continued support of the OSU programs that build skills, capabilities and resources for our industry, benefiting their students and businesses throughout Oregon.

Thank You,

Nikos Ridge

Co-Founder/CEO

Ninkasi Brewing Company