



April 17, 2019

To the members of the Education Subcommittee, Joint Ways & Means:

On behalf of the Oregon Brewers Guild and our 165 member breweries across state, we are writing to ask that you continue funding for the Oregon State University Fermentation Science Program. This unique program has helped keep the Oregon beer industry among the most influential and prosperous in the country. The industry employs over 8,500 workers in Oregon, and creates a \$4.49 billion annual economic impact on the state. Over the past 10 years, employment has gone up 437 percent at Oregon breweries.

How important is fermentation to our industry? It's simple: without fermentation, there is no beer. And the fermentation process has become an increasingly important element in today's brews. New innovations in yeast strains and cultures have helped brewers develop new styles. At many breweries, this innovation is led by graduates of the OSU Fermentation Sciences program. Over the past 11 years, 64 students have gone on to work for Oregon breweries, taking positions as brewers, cellar workers, quality assurance technicians and quality assurance managers. If you're a fan of Oregon beer, there's a good chance you have sipped a pint one of these students helped to create. Program graduates have gone on to work for breweries across the state, including Deschutes, Rogue, Ninkasi, Pelican, Logsdon, De Garde, Wolves & People, Block 15 and Mazama, to name a few. In addition, each year, students from the program join breweries across the state as interns. Brewers know they will find interns who are eager to learn. Sometimes, those students even teach veteran brewers a few things.

One of the things that makes the Oregon beer industry special is the state's involvement with every facet and stage of brewing, from growing hops to malting to crafting beer. We also have a vast group of partners that supports the industry in myriad ways, including branding, marketing, building brew systems and much more. With such a robust industry and culture, it's important that we also provide a world-class educational program that supports the industry. That's exactly what Oregon State provides with its fermentation science major. We ask that you continue to support this important program.

Christina LaRue  
Co-Executive Director

Anthony Roberts  
Co-Executive Director