

SCR 204 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Congratulates Rogue Creamery for its extraordinary achievement in winning top prize at World Cheese Awards for its Rogue River Blue, and commends Rogue Creamery for its distinctive and important place in the history, culture, and economy of Southern Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Rogue Creamery was founded as a local cheese producer in the Rogue River Valley in the 1930's by Tom Vella, an Italian immigrant. The creamery began production of blue cheese in 1954 after Vella toured and studied all aspects of cheesemaking in the Roquefort region of France. Rogue Creamery produced the first cave-aged blue cheese west of the Missouri River. Rogue Creamery has achieved national and international acclaim for its artisan blue cheeses. The creamery has won more than 30 major medals and awards, including a 2009 Best of Show award from the American Cheese Society and a prize for best blue cheese at the at the 2003 World Cheese Awards.

In October of 2019, Rogue Creamery's Rogue River Blue Cheese was crowned world champion at the 2019 World Cheese Awards. The Rogue River Blue is a seasonal organic cheese made from raw cow's milk and includes a natural rind. Each wheel of Rogue River Blue is hand-wrapped in Syrah grape leaves that are picked each spring from a nearby vineyard and soaked in pear spirits before the wheel is aged in caves for nearly a year. Creamery President David "Mr. Blue" Gremmels has said the creamery's goal with Rogue River Blue was "to create a real American original" that "captures the essence of southern Oregon in its flavor, presentation, and aromatics."

Rogue Creamery has long been an important provider of family-wage jobs and continues to be a vital part of southern Oregon's vibrant economy.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 204 congratulates Rogue Creamery for its extraordinary achievement in winning top prize at World Cheese Awards for its Rogue River Blue, and commends Rogue Creamery for its distinctive and important place in the history, culture, and economy of Southern Oregon.