



April 14, 2021

Dear Joint Committee on Ways & Means:

I am writing on behalf of the 2021 ARPA funding request from Oregon State University (OSU) to greatly increase their ability to do wildfire smoke testing and for more research on that subject. As a winegrower in the Dundee Hills we felt for the first time in our 50 years of growing grapes how catastrophic wildfires can greatly effect our vineyards and the resulting wines. The fires of 2020 impacted every aspect of winegrowing, and we learned one very important thing: we were not prepared for them.

Researchers at OSU have been working on smoke effect for many years and the knowledge gaps between what we know and don't know are vast. The fires of 2020 made those gaps stand out enormously, and we need to fund the new Smoke Lab that OSU is proposing to close those gaps to help lead our wine industry's winegrowing efforts in this time of climate change.

I strongly encourage this committee to approve the \$2,680,000 ARPA funding request from OSU to help us deal with the damaging effects of smoke on our wines.

Thank you,

Alex Sokol Blosser  
Co-President, Winemaker