

# Mt. Hood Winery, Inc.

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To whomever it may concern:

My business, Mt. Hood Winery, has been neighbors with The Fruit Company for about 12 years. Prior to that we were neighbors as fruit growers in the same location for all the years since their purchase of the building from Diamond Fruit many years ago. This Fruit Museum project, to be established in the Terminal Ice and Cold Storage building, has special meaning to my family. Our great uncle was an early partner in the Terminal Ice & Cold Storage Company many, many years ago. He sold his interest, and moved on to other projects. Our Bickford family operation includes pear and apple orchards, as well as the winery operation. We are a Century Farm in the state of Oregon, and proud to be Oregon businesses.

Scott Webster, and our family have been neighboring farmers for all our lives. We fully support their agritourism vision. I can see very good synergies with the 2 businesses working closely together. Mt. Hood Winery currently has 2 full time tasting room staff, plus 8 part time staffers. We also have 3 more full time staff at the winemaking facility nearby. We see a variety of customers from many parts of the USA, as well as world travelers. The tourist experience would be enhanced by adding a historical yet functional fruit museum experience. If funded, we would have more visitors, so we would need to hire up to 5 more employees. Naturally, more traffic would translate to more employees.

We enthusiastically support this grant application for **The Fruit Museum project.**

Sincerely,

Steve Bickford, President  
Mt. Hood Winery, Inc.