



March 16, 2023

Co-Chair Michael Dembrow
Co-Chair Khanh Pham
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham, members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Wine Council, which represents over fifty percent of Oregon Wine grapes, grown, produced, and sold, I am writing to express our support for the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) budget request outlined in HB 5002.

The ODA is an important partner and collaborator with Oregon's agriculture industries, particularly our growing wine industry. As you know, wine producers have faced several extremely challenging years with unprecedented wildfires, drought, labor shortages, and the lasting impacts of the pandemic. The ODA has been a valuable partner in helping address many of the challenges our industry has faced, and it is critical that they continue to maintain an adequate budget to continue to provide that level of service and collaboration to wine grape growers throughout the state.

We look forward to working with ODA and other partners in the wine industry who are facing a new challenge: mealybugs. This pest has a negative impact on wine grapes, and in some instances allows for transmission of grapevine viruses that can be incredibly harmful to vineyards. We are committed to working with partners in this space to identify solutions and bring forward opportunities for the state to support these efforts.

We are also deeply supportive of the work the ODA has done in the cannabis regulation space. Many of our members are deeply impacted by illegal cannabis operations, particularly those in Southern Oregon, and we are grateful for the work ODA has done to address the impacts these grow operations have on water, labor, environmental and other shared resources. We are particularly supportive of "package 230" outlined in the proposed ODA budget to fund a cannabis lab at \$2.28M. This funding would allow ODA to establish three staff positions within the lab to test cannabis samples, which would help support enforcement against bad actors in the industry that are negatively impacting our members' wine operations.

It is important that the ODA receive adequate funding to continue to work with and support agriculture producers, particularly wine grape growers. We urge you to support the budget outlined in HB 5002.

Sincerely,

Fawn Barrie
Executive Director

Oregon Wine Council