

**TO: Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair**

DT: April 26, 2023

RE: HB 5025 - Support of OSU Fermentation Program

Co-Chairs & Members of the Committee:

As a member of Oregon's fermented food and beverage sector, I am writing to express my strong support for the OSU Fermentation Sciences in HB 5025. The fermentation program needs the HECC requested amount which will allow the program to continue delivering exceptional educational opportunities to current and future students.

Graduates from the OSU fermentation program work at and/or lead many of Oregon's wineries, breweries, cideries, distilleries, and cheese companies. Their skills and knowledge are critical to maintaining the reputation of excellence that our food and beverage products enjoy nationally and internationally.

I graduated from the OSU fermentation program in 2014 and worked in the OSU Creamery for two years. I was also the Treasurer of the Food and Fermentation Club. This experience was invaluable and provided me the opportunity to intern with multiple dairies in Oregon, including Eberhard's Dairy in Redmond and Darigold's Portland plant. The education I received from OSU's fermentation program equipped me with the skills to obtain employment immediately after graduation, as well as many of my peers. I subsequently obtained my J.D. and am a practicing attorney in Oregon and Washington and represent many food and beverage employers on matters of labor and employment law. I am able to connect with my clients on a level that other attorneys are not because of my experience at OSU.

The fermentation program provided me with a degree that opened doors to an exciting career within a sector with plentiful job opportunities for scientists, operators, product developers, entrepreneurs, and even lawyers. Please help provide this opportunity to future students.

Sincerely,



Ally McLain