

**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.

Thanks to the fermentation sciences program at Oregon state, I have been able to able assist my company through a multitude of ways without needing to be trained by them. I currently work in Research and development for Reser Fine Foods as a commercialization specialist. My job requires me to think critically and quickly while also having a deep understanding of a wide variety of fermentation processes. All of this has been possible thanks to the education and opportunities for work and growth at Oregon States Fermentation sciences program.

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, and entrepreneurs. Please help provide this opportunity to future students.

Sincerely,

**Quinn Schmidt**  
*Reser's Fine Foods*  
*Commericalization specialist*