

**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 Statewides- Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Lab

Co-Chairs & Members of the Committee:

As a member of Oregon's food and beverage sector, I am writing to express my strong support for the OSU Statewides' budget in HB 5025.

OSU Statewides contribute greatly to Oregon's food and beverage sector through applied research and distribution of knowledge through OSU's statewide Extension network. It is important that the OSU Statewides receive continued service level funding and receive focus on sustainable food systems.

- Oregon produced beer and wine create more than \$12.5 billion annually in economic activity to Oregon with 43,000 jobs that result in nearly \$2 billion in wages. As a business owner in this sector, I can testify that Food Science & Technology alumni have added greatly to this economic success. FST has a Fermentation Science degree that is critical and highly sought after by the fermentation industry. These alumni bring professional applications, solutions, innovation, and sustainability to all facets of our industry.
- An increased investment in the OSU Statewides will provide regional support of local food and beverage entrepreneurs. Sustainable food technology experts will be placed regionally to consult and connect food businesses with the existing food innovation centers (Portland, Astoria, Corvallis). Additionally, innovation specialists will support the Master Food Preservers programming contributing to delivering affordable, adequate and accessible food across Oregon. An emphasis on regional food production will create jobs and commercial activities in small and medium sized towns. Support of Oregon's local and regional food hubs will enhance the viability of regional food markets beyond direct-to-consumer sale.
- As a graduate from the Department of Food Science & Technology (FST), I have been given the tools to significantly improve the State of Oregon. Over the last fifty years of my career I have held many influential positions that the State of Oregon has benefited from. One being elected as the International President of the Master Brewers Association of the Americas. During my term, I promoted the inclusion of Craft Brewers into the organization. That promotion resulted in the largest MBAA District in that organization, District Northwestern. The result was disseminating brewing technology which contributed to the 400+ breweries that Oregon currently has. I can testify that FST alumni receive relevant degrees and are competitive for high quality jobs within the industry. OSU and FST graduates will drive innovation within Oregon's food and beverage industry and accelerate the implementation of sustainable food systems. Oregon's food and beverage industry will become more diverse. Promotion of knowledge transfer, increase education of food

industry work force and allow industry to promote from within. Increase number of high school graduates interested in careers in food

Sincerely,

Larry L. Sidor
Co-Founder Crux Fermentation Project