



REX HILL

BRIDGEPORT
— BREWING —



June 1, 2016

Dear Members of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission:

We are writing to express our support for the capital request from Oregon State University to forward the Oregon Quality Foods and Beverages Initiative.

The food and beverage industries in Oregon are among the fastest growing sectors in the Oregon economy, representing a growth of 25 percent in the last four years. While some of these companies start small, they can grow quickly to mid-size businesses that are national in scope. Other companies already have national footprints and are significant drivers of Oregon's economy.

The Oregon Quality Foods and Beverages Initiative will further OSU's research, teaching, and outreach with facilities for brewing, wine-making, distilled spirits, cheese-making and product development from crop breeding to packaging and marketing. A few examples:

- expanded dairy processing space and laboratory for food safety
- expanded facilities for classroom and experiential learning for students and continuing education learners.
- expanded laboratories for analytical chemistry and 'vine to wine' research for wine industries and teaching
- facilities to house the \$1M Gambrinus brewing facilities gift and additional instrumentation for brewing and distillation.

Food and beverage entrepreneurs and industries require a broad base of knowledge to be successful. They need the skills of businessmen, food scientists, chefs, consumer evaluators, packaging experts, and savvy marketers to help guarantee success. They require knowledge of food safety, shelf-life calculations, nutritional labeling, as well as environmental and nutritional issues. And they need a production process and business model that is profitable.

We believe this initiative will allow Oregon State to train tomorrow's winemakers, brewers, cheese makers and other food entrepreneurs on state-of-the-art equipment, leading to a highly skilled workforce that will support Oregon as a world leader in quality food and beverages.

With half the funding for this initiative coming from industry and other private sources, we hope the HECC will see this project as a priority to secure the other half of the funding from the legislature during the 2017 session.

Sincerely,

Patrick Criteser
President and CEO
Tillamook County Creamery Association

Sam Tannahill
Founder, Director of Viticulture & Winemaking
A to Z Wineworks · REX HILL

Jeff Edgerton
Brewmaster
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