From: Susan Watkins
To: JWMED Exhibits
Subject: Statewides
Date: Monday, May 15, 2017 12:29:32 PM

Dear Co-Chairs Monroe and Warner and Members of the SubCommittee:

My husband and I own a small woodland outside McMinnville. Before we purchased our property in 1992, we knew nothing about forestry. Our 55 acres had been chipped and left alone. We had to learn what to plant, how to plant it, and how to manage a forest. For this education, we turned to OSU College of Forestry Extension.

I first took the Basic Forestry Short Course and then became a Master Woodland Manager in 2002. Our course was outstanding. Our teachers were world leaders in forestry, water, and wood products. Oregon is lucky to have such amazing human resources (to go along with our amazing forests). Thoughtful planning by OSU and the State Legislature has made these resources available to all interested Oregonians. In turn, we pass our new knowledge along to our neighbors and friends. I was lucky enough to also serve two terms on the Committee for Family Forestlands, appointed by the Board of Forestry to advise the Board about matters affecting small landowners. My last year, I served as the Committee's Acting Chair.

Both as an MWM and as a member of the CFF, I relied on OSU and the NW Research Station to provide the scientific basis for policies and practices that would benefit Oregon's 44,000 small forest owners. These services are invaluable. Without this local knowledge base, made available through Extension statewide, we landowners would have to turn to internet services or materials developed in forests in other states that do not comprise the same species, soils, or climates. Our forests will not thrive as well as they do today.

Please fully fund these services. They make the entire state a better place to work and live.

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