



March 18, 2019

Senate Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Please support SB257

Members of the Committee:

I'm writing to urge your support of SB257, which would provide \$30 million in funding to reinvest and expand OSU's statewide public service programs: the OSU Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Forest Research Laboratory. These programs support agricultural, natural resource, community development and mental health programs across the state.

The "OSU statewides," as they're commonly referred to, are unique to the University and give it a physical presence in nearly every county of the state in pursuit of its land grant mission. It is one of the most important ways OSU improves the lives of Oregonians and our state's economy.

The statewides' mission is to "improve the lives of Oregonians through discovery, outreach, and learning focused on critical issues of importance to communities throughout the state and the world." The OSU Extension Service creates an avenue for Oregonians to find research-based information on economic development, healthy and productive life choices, and sustainable ecosystems. The Oregon Agricultural Experiment station is Oregon's primary research generator related to food, agriculture, and natural resources. The Forest Research Laboratory helps Oregonians understand the science behind forest management, the connections between people and forests, and how renewable materials benefit businesses and communities.

Your support of the OSU statewides will positively impact Oregon and help make the state a better place for current and future generations. I urge your support of SB257.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bill Perry
President

The Beaver Caucus is an independent, alumni led organization. It is a 501(c)4 with an independent board of directors. The Caucus works closely with the OSU Foundation to engage alumni and supporters, giving them the opportunity to amplify their voice and have a substantive impact on state government. www.thebeavercaucus.org