

Dear Senator Johnson, Senator Steiner Hayward, and Representative Ray field:

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 257, funding for Oregon State University outreach and research programs-and to encourage the state legislature to approve Senate Bill 257.

We have used the extension program considerably in the last 44 years to obtain information for our tree farm. Our family has had a 169 acre tree farm for the last 44 years on the Oregon coast. In 2018 we started to notice two different areas exhibiting dying trees. After failing to identify the cause of the tree mortality we went to Norma Kline the local OSU forestry extension agent. She came out to the property and investigated the dying trees and took samples and sent them to the OSU Extension laboratory in Corvallis. Dave Shaw a OSU Extension pathologist examined the samples and came down to our property, with Norma, and identified that the cause was laminated root rot. Laminated root rot is one of the most serious diseases of Douglas Fir and takes land out of Douglas Fir production for a minimum of 50 years. With the help of Norma and Dave we were able to come up with a plan to isolate the damage before it spreads to a large area. This incident highlights the value of the extension service to small woodland owners.

Bob and Cindy MacWhorter

March 9 2019

March 6, 2019

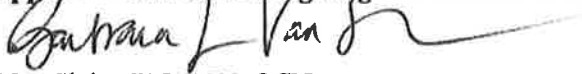
Re: **SB 257** consideration

Joint Ways & Means Committee:

I am the Nurse Navigator at the Bay Area Cancer Center and work closely with cancer survivors and those on treatment. One of my tasks is to offer patients the education and skills required towards a healthier lifestyle in order to help with the prevention, treatment and mitigation of the return of cancer. One of my **most valued and engaged community partners** towards this endeavor is the OSU Extension service in Coos County.

The Extension service allows the use of their Nutritionist; she has provided many hours of classes and expertise for the cancer survivorship program. Her classes have reached many people in Coos County and helped them to gain insight on their health in a non-judgmental, clearly explained and supportive manner. I know the community services by the Extension service have **added value to the health of Coos County** because I talk with the participants of these classes and weeks and even months afterwards they tell me about the positive nutritional changes they have made.

Please support the increased budgeting that this bill allows.



Barbara Van Slyke, RN, BSN, OCN
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House Bill 2444

My name is Bailey Mast and I am from the Oakland FFA Chapter. I am here to speak on behalf of House Bill 2444 that is an agricultural education bill to benefit the future of agriculture and the Oregon FFA Association. First to give you a little history, the Oregon FFA Association was established in 1929 and had funding from the Oregon Department of Education leading up to 2011. Since the 1990's the Association saw the funding from the state rapidly decline to the point of being almost non-existent. In 2011 agricultural leaders decided to look at private sources as a way of funding. Since that time our organization has been primarily privately funded. This bill will seek to re-establish financial support from the state to promote student success, leadership development, and career readiness. House Bill 2444 is intended to provide supports in three primary ways. One key item in this legislation is that it will allow all Oregon FFA chapters to offer affiliate membership for all students in agricultural classes. Currently many students have to pay individual dues to participate in this student led organization. Unfortunately this is a deterrent to some. If HB 2444 was to pass every student would have the opportunity to participate in this leadership organization. Not only does this open barriers, but would provide leadership development and training as well as providing student learning supports through the Agricultural Experience Tracker. All of these combined help all of our students with career and leadership development for the future. One additional item HB2444 will support is the creation of a grant program for supporting summer extended contracts. Many of you may know that our Supervised Agricultural Experiences are year round projects that require our advisor's assistance. With the promotion of these SAE's we are gaining career experiences. In addition, student SAE's have a documented statewide economic impact of \$13.8 million per year. Clearly agricultural education students are contributing to the economy and will continue to do so. It is estimated that House Bill 2444 will be an investment of \$83.33 per student per year. Imagine how far this organization will go with this small investment. House Bill 2444 is a small investment with a big return. This budget item will support the largest CTE student leadership organization in the state. Thank you for listening to my testimony today.

Sterling Foster

The possible impacting ability of this program is irrefutable, but no matter how many stories and testimonies you hear, no one will understand how much that impact really is. Every student in the world has the potential to be the greatest leader of their generation. Every student in high school has the potential to help others grow. Every student in high school has the potential to grow themselves, and every high schooler has the potential to be a completely different person by graduation, but just because you have potential does not mean you are going to reach it, on your own at least. This program, FFA, as seen time and time again has consistently helped students. And the instructors and advisors within Ag Education and FFA have done this by making you feel as though your highest potential, even in something as small as winning a competition, is only the beginning and then they help you produce the results to prove it. I went from an immature middle schooler who was getting kicked out regularly, not doing great in school to someone who had a 4.0 freshman year, and very close to that this year. To someone who is amazed by what I've learned, and excited for what I have yet to learn. I see this in students around our school and district. Whatever that growth meant for them, they are getting there. It's because of this program. Please House Bill 2444 to support the impact of FFA.

Hello, my name is Nolan Carson and I am currently a junior at Sutherlin High School in Douglas County. As I have been a member of the FFA since my freshman year, I can honestly say that this organization has crafted me into the person I am today. I began in the program as a shy kid who lacked the confidence to do anything, yet I am here today before you capable of speaking in front of anyone and able to work towards whatever I set my mind to. This story is not unique to me; nearly every FFA member can tell you how the organization has changed them for the better. Whether that is allowing them to discover their career path or helping them with their personal development, the FFA works wonders on whoever wears one of these blue jackets. While always rooted in agriculture, FFA teaches students many different skills, from business to leadership to science to advocacy. With that, I ask you all for your support of House Bill 2444.