

Testimony to the Joint Ways & Means Committee, Subcommittee on Education
Tuesday, April 2, 2019 State Capitol, Salem, Oregon

Co-Chairs: Representative Susan McLain and Senator Lew Frederick, and other Esteemed Members of this Committee:

Good Morning,

My name is Andrea Cano, and I am here to testify in support of House Bill 5024, as it relates to the HECC funding request.

I'm also highlighting the importance of Senate Bill 257 - which includes funds for Oregon State University's statewide programs and especially OSU's Extension Service.

For over a year as a community engagement liaison, I've witnessed the development of the Extension Services' new website titled **Solve Pest Problems (SPP)** – slated to launch later this year.

So, why am I impressed with this initiative?

Solve Pest Problem will serve various publics in Oregon as an on-line and phone accessible educational resource - as people cultivate and harvest their gardens, seeking ways to rid their homes and lawns of pesky insects or invasive weeds.

I am also thrilled by OSU's stated commitment for diversity, equity, and inclusion - clearly evident in the design of this innovative website as an English and Spanish bilingual resource. No doubt Solve Pest Problems will well serve this state's half million Hispanic/ Latinx/ and Mexican/Central/ and South American indigenous communities.

As a former member and chair of the State of Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (2010-2016), I absolutely applaud this project for its intention not to simply translate from one language to another - but to incorporate cultural adaptation, plain language and literacy, user-friendly graphics and content.

Ensuring these aspects is the seven member Bilingual Latinx Advisory Committee whose expertise and foundational knowledge of SPP topics, science, policies, and best practices also are contributing to the website's formation.

In addition, the SPP is also being apprised by a special intercultural Advisory Committee, whose members include representatives of the Russian, Somali, Chinese, Tongan communities, among other ethnic backgrounds.

These two advisory committees join the principal SPP Steering Committee as key stakeholders in an unprecedented, inclusive process and public benefit, as part of all that OSU proposes deserving your consideration and support. Thank you for receiving this testimony.

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