

**Dan Keppen  
P.O. Box 216  
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The Honorable Betsy Johnson  
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward  
The Honorable Dan Rayfield  
Tri-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Room H-178  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs**

Dear Senators Johnson and Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield:

I write to share with you the importance of the Oregon State University (OSU) Statewide Public Service Programs (“OSU Statewides”)– the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory – to the State of Oregon.

I graduated in 1992 with my M.S. in Water Resources Engineering from OSU. I have lived in Oregon’s Klamath Basin since 2001, when I moved here to take the executive director’s position at the Klamath Water Users Association. In 2005, I formed my own consulting business, which specializes in Western water resources policy work, and provides me opportunities to work directly with Congress and the Administration in Washington, D.C. I have also been very involved in the local community, serving for 19 years in the Klamath County Rotary Club and on the board of directors for the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce (where I served as president in 2015), among other community service activities. Our local Rotary Club works closely with the OSU Extension Service to manage the financial transactions and logistics behind the annual 4-H/FFA Livestock Auction, where the local community last year purchased nearly \$900,000 worth of livestock raised by young agricultural entrepreneurs.

The OSU Statewides provide state-of-the-art research and outreach generated by scientists and extension agents to real-world problems. The Agricultural Experiment Stations across the state have recognized that research is essential to the continuity of the state’s food production line.


The experiment stations last year at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic quickly prioritized policies and procedures to protect researchers while still allowing them to continue critical work with crops, livestock and even offshore on boats. Researchers are conducting stream studies in multiple western and southern Oregon watersheds and looking at wildfire’s ramifications for biodiversity in a collection of southwestern Oregon forests. They are also assisting in post-fire forest planting and planning, including addressing and discussing questions around seed availability and appropriate seed zones, climate mitigation, and availability of seedlings.

I particularly and strongly support the recent establishment of “water cluster” hires at OSU, and believe these new positions will have a positive impact in watersheds around the state.

The Governor’s Recommended Budget flatlined the Statewides funding. I respectfully request that you support \$158.5 million in operational funding for the OSU Statewides - \$84 million for Agricultural Experiment Station, \$61.9 million for the OSU Extension Service and \$12.6 million for the Forest Research Laboratory. This investment represents a 7.42% base funding level increase to the 2019-21 budget so the OSU Statewides can continue their essential work in Oregon.

I acknowledge the unique state of Oregon’s economy and recognize the difficult decisions you will have to make in the months ahead. As a critical part of OSU’s Land Grant mission to serve all corners of the state, I see this as a time to invest in programs, like the OSU Statewides, with a significant statewide impact.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Keppen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Keppen

cc: The Honorable Dennis Linthicum, State Senator  
The Honorable Werner Reschke, State Representative