

Ways and Means
900 State Street NE, Room H-178,
Salem OR 97301

RE: HB 5555

Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, Rayfield and Members of the Committee,

I do not envy my former legislative colleagues who must make difficult choices about which of the many deserving programs will receive the limited funds available. As I know your goal is to do the greatest amount of good for the state with the investments you make, I urge you to prioritize Oregon State and our public university system as you make decisions about the budget.

I am not a graduate of Oregon State, yet my appreciation for its work and the benefits it brings to our state have made me an enthusiastic supporter. I serve on the board of The Beaver Caucus advocacy program as well as the OSU Foundation Board of Trustees. Through this experience I have seen the extraordinary level of support OSU and its programs enjoy in communities across Oregon.

Please consider investing \$900M in the Public University Support Fund and \$200M in the Oregon Opportunity Grant, so that deserving students from all walks of life can have a viable path to a college education and the benefits it brings. Please also direct \$158.5M towards OSU's statewide public service programs, including Extension, Forest Research Laboratories and Agricultural Experiment Stations. These "statewides" are active in every county in the state, and offer indispensable programs that include early childhood support, partnerships with school districts and public health services among other offerings. I am frequently struck by the breadth and variety of OSU's involvement throughout the state. By supporting OSU you will be strengthening many Oregon communities both urban and rural.

We all want to see Oregonians thrive. Supporting the work of Oregon State University is one of the best paths to achieving that shared goal.

Best Regards,

Greg Macpherson
Trustee, Oregon State University Foundation
Member, Beaver Caucus Board of Directors