



April 21, 2021

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 State Street NE
Salem OR 97301

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I manage the community gardening and farming programs at the Marion Polk Food Share, and I am testifying in support of increasing Oregon State University's CSL budget for statewide services.

As the regional food bank for Marion and Polk counties, the Food Share brings people together to end hunger and its roots causes. We believe that ending hunger requires not just a focus on supplying food directly to households, but also working with community partners to address the broader social problems that place individuals at risk of food insecurity. Our partnership with Oregon State University Extension has directly led to improvements in the quality of life for some of Marion and Polk counties most underserved and vulnerable populations. To name a few examples from 2019-2020:

- Through a prescription vegetable program, the Food Share and OSU Extension worked together to supply nearly 1,500 individuals in Marion and Polk counties with fresh, locally grown produce and accompanying recipes and cooking tips.
- Through educational programming in gardens, our organizations collaborated to bring basic gardening skills to more than 200 adults and teens, giving them skills to grow nutritionally dense produce for their households.
- And finally, through youth development programs, the Food Share and OSU Extension offered unique agricultural internships for 40 teen leaders who are inspired to improve local access to fresh and healthy foods.

Please do all you can to increase funding for the vital work that OSU's statewide services do for our communities.

Sincerely,

Jared Hibbard-Swanson
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