

Dear Senate Education Committee

Re: Support SB 458 Oregon Statewide Public Service Programs

I am an Oregon State University volunteer Master Honeybee Keeper, Master Melitologist, Master Food Preserver, and Extension Master Gardener™, and lifelong learner who benefits from Extension education programs and who strongly support the request for **OSU Statewide Public Service Programs funding (SB 458)**.

As you know, the OSU Extension Service is one of three statewide public service programs. It engages people, families, and businesses to help solve problems, manage resources, and develop leadership in rural and urban areas.

Under Oregon State University's land-grant mission of learning, discovery, and engagement, the OSU Statewide —OSU Extension, Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Laboratory — serve Oregonians by integrating state-of-the-art research and community-based engagement to address real-world needs and opportunities.

Our mission is Oregon. For more than a century, the OSU Statewide have responded, innovated, and engaged as a trusted partner to create research-based knowledge and deliver evidence-based programs that strengthen communities and economies, sustain natural resources, and promote healthy families and individuals. It's a pivotal time, and the challenges are many — a changing climate, a growing mental health crisis, a widening opportunity gap facing our young people. With your support, the OSU Statewide are poised to address these head-on to create a more resilient and equitable future for Oregon.

I believe that investing in OSU Extension Service provides immediate benefit for both rural and urban Oregonians. As an active OSU Extension volunteer, I see, firsthand, how Extension programs engage people and families to better their lives. Each year, Extension Master Gardeners teach thousands of local gardeners how to grow their own food and how to garden using practices that build soil, conserve water, and help wildlife. Master Beekeepers and Master Melitologist teach residents how to care and manage pollinators and their habitat. Master Food Preservers teach the public to safely preserve food and reduce the number of Oregonian deaths related to food borne illnesses and improper food preserving techniques. Extension Forestry Program provides excellent online and in person training for woodland owners to manage their forestlands in a manner to reduce wildfire and increase wildlife habitat needs. Opening the forest to provide shelter and food for elk, deer, and other species, far away from privately owned cropland and rangeland systems needing protection from elk depredation.

Through my volunteer work, I know the strong need for and interest in home-grown, quality food. I also know the urgent need for information about forest management to reduce wildfire risks and open the forest canopy to provide food and refuge for wild ungulates including elk, deer, moose, antelope; care and feeding of pollinator species, during this time of rapidly changing climate. That's why I am pleased to see the proposed new initiative to address increasing resiliency of our food system, communities, and the natural resources.

In summary, please support Oregon State University Extension by funding OSU Statewide Public Service Programs as requested: a total of **\$206 M which includes the \$50 million package** to restore Continuing Service Level and initiatives to build resiliency. At this level, Extension will continue current services and expand into new, critical areas to build resilient communities, food systems, and natural resources.

Please support expanding opportunities for Oregonians by fully funding **SB 458 OSU Statewide Public Service Programs**. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Mann