

Submitter: Bryan Ostlund  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Ag Producers  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB458

March 3, 2023

Re: Support for SB 458 – Oregon State University and Statewide Public Service Programs

Dear Senators:

On behalf of Oregon agriculture, specifically Oregon's grass seed, clover, mint and blueberry growers, I am writing to express full support for SB 458. This bill helps meet the critical needs of the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs (OSU Statewides), including the Agricultural Experiment Stations and Branch Extension Stations throughout Oregon.

A resilient Oregon includes resilient food and agricultural systems. The economic, environmental and community challenges facing society at large are reflected in our food system. In addressing those challenges with a strategic, multidisciplinary, connected initiative, the OSU Statewides will join with Oregon's vibrant food and agricultural industries to catalyze opportunities in everything from sustainable food production to farm succession to the future of ag in vertical farming and robotics to business development and entrepreneurship.

Having been a part of Oregon agricultural industries for more than 30 years, I can personally attest to the vital need for the OSU Statewides broadly and the Agricultural Experiment Stations specifically.

Oregon Agricultural producers face an ever-changing landscape of highly complex issues. Oregon State University and the Branch Experiment Stations play a key role in keeping our ag producers competitive in both domestic and global markets.

In the past two legislative sessions, the OSU Statewides have not received their base budget requests to cover cost increases, which are mainly modest salary, benefits and operational cost increases. At the same time, Oregonians have growing needs to maintain the health of our communities, food systems and critical natural resources. We need to build a resilient Oregon and to do so, we need to invest in the OSU Statewides.

We're aware there are many demands on state government funds, but this investment is one we cannot afford to fall short on again. Thank you for your

thoughtful consideration and for supporting a resilient Oregon by supporting SB 458.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bryan Ostlund,

On behalf of Oregon's Grass Seed, Clover, Mint and Blueberry Industries