

Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Representative Tawna Sanchez
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways & Means Committee

RE: OSU Statewide Public Service Programs

Dear Senator Steiner and Representative Sanchez,

Our coalition of diverse stakeholders would like to share our support for the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs – the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory. Known as “The OSU Statewides,” these programs touch every corner of the state and serve all Oregonians by providing state-of-the-art research and community-based education to address real-world problems.

As stakeholders, we have been impacted by the inadequate state funding for the OSU Statewides. Underfunding has led to a loss of essential scientists and Extension educators. It has reduced critical research and Extension programming and services throughout the state. We have asked OSU to develop a legislative request that would rebuild lost capacity while also addressing the many emerging issues that face our communities.

In the 2023-25 biennium the OSU Statewides seek a \$50 million increase to sustain current operations, bolster capacity to meet critical needs in core mission areas and make strategic investments in support of a more resilient future for Oregon communities, food systems and natural resources. This includes:

- \$15.7 million to provide full base funding to sustain program and service levels. This reflects an 8.67% increase in operating expenses plus a \$2.2 million catch-up to restore a deficit from our 2021-23 allocation.
- \$34.3 million in strategic investments crafted to support food production, accelerate approaches to sustainable forestry and help all Oregonians – and their communities – thrive.

This investment will provide for much-needed personnel, new and expanded programming and other critical support. Strategic investments on top of necessary base funding will place research and Extension professionals in key areas to deliver comprehensive, coordinated and interdisciplinary programming that is adaptable and responsive to local needs. These proposed investments are informed by and centered on critical needs in and at the intersections of agriculture, forestry, public health and youth development.

Thank you for your service to the state of Oregon. We recognize you have big decisions ahead. Please continue to recognize OSU’s land grant mission to serve all corners of the state by continuing to invest in programs like the OSU Statewides that have significant impact for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration,

1000 Friends of Oregon
Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries
Black Food Sovereignty Coalition
Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers
Farmers Market Fund
Far West
Friends of Family Farmers
Gorge Grown Food Network
Growing Gardens
High Desert Food & Farm Alliance
Oregon Association of Nurseries
Oregon Cattlemen’s Association
Oregon Dairy Farmer’s Association
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Master Gardener Association
Oregon Organic Coalition
Grant County Economic Development
Grant County Community Action Team
North Coast Food Web
Adelante Mujeres
Genuine Wallowa County
Klamath Grown
American Farmland Trust
Oregon Seed Association
Oregon Seed Council
Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Oregon Christmas Tree Growers Association

Oregon Tilth
Oregon Wine Council
Oregon Winegrowers Association
Oregon Women for Agriculture
Oregon Wheat
Oregon Forest Industries Council
Rogue Farm Corps
Oregonians for Food & Shelter
Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Assn.
The Nature Conservancy
Tillamook
Ten Rivers Food Web
Eastern Oregon Counties Association
Food NW
Cyber Mill Grant County
Feed'em Freedom Foundation
Mudbone Grown
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network
Bohemia Food Hub
Agricultural Connections
Food Roots
Rayonier
Oregon Sheep Growers Association
Oregon Water Resources Congress
Manulife
Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association

