

Dear Representatives Ken Helm and Mark Owens,

I'm writing to you in support of the OSU Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine as they are an incredible and critical member of our livestock community in the state of Oregon. I have owned horses, managed barns, and taught lessons and any time one of our equine partners is gravely ill it is always a reassurance to know we can take them to OSU. The staff, students, and facility at OSU give many equines their best chance at survival and healing. They're the states only full surgical option and that is incredibly important to maintain.

I now live on the north coast of Oregon on a farm with horses and Highland cows. There is a large shortage of veterinarians in the state and particularly in rural areas. In case of emergencies, it is usually impossible to reach a local veterinarian to come out and our only option is to trailer into OSU. I was luckily able to bring my horse in time to OSU where they were able to diagnose him and get him into a lifesaving surgery quickly. I'm thankful for them every day. The team of veterinarians teaching and practicing at OSU are incredibly knowledgeable and skilled. To see them teaching the next generation of veterinarians is comforting to our community that is in dire need of more veterinarians, especially ones so well educated by a well-rounded program such as OSU.

Living in Tillamook county and getting to know people in the dairy and beef industry also reminds me of how important it is to have OSU. Diseases are unfortunately just part of life with livestock and having the laboratory at OSU is incredibly important for public, animal, and environmental health. With the shortage of veterinarians more and more farmers are having a harder time staying on top of the health of their herds. There needs to be more support and funding for OSU and the lab for them to keep servicing and teaching at an excellent level. They are an incredibly important member to the Oregon equine and livestock community. The increased funding will enable OSU to keep protecting public and animal health through disease surveillance, diagnosis, surgical facility, and the formation of future veterinarians.

Thank you,  
Clio Rebillon