



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 10, 2025

Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2947 - Support

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6,300 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining chapters at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology, and our faculty members across Oregon, I ask that you please support HB 2947.

In addition to campus classrooms, our members work in the field and laboratories all over Oregon. Research programs at higher education institutions across Oregon depend on both tenured professors, who direct programs, and non-tenured research personnel, who manage labs and perform hands-on research. The AAUP-OR supports these hard working faculty and personnel working in every aspect of the research enterprise.

As you know, research and Extension are funded by a patchwork of state, federal, and local funds, which can leave faculty with a sense of precarity. At this moment, federal funding for research is uncertain, particularly when it comes to environmental contaminants such as PFAS. HB 2947 provides the stability and support for OSU researchers to address a critical issue involving “forever chemicals” which may threaten Oregon’s land, water, and economy for a very long time. If you do not fund this research, no one else is going to step up to protect our state.

HB 2947 is a very small ask compared to the risks to farmers, consumers, workers, and water systems in Oregon if this PFAS research is not funded. The cost to the state of Maine to research and mitigate PFAS impacts stands at around [\\$200 million dollars](#). Oregon’s farmers and land managers need accurate information about the biosolids available in our state so that they can make informed decisions about what to apply to their land. OSU researchers have decades of expertise in this area and simply need the resources to provide that knowledge. HB 2947 has an

Extension component, so stakeholders will be engaged in telling researchers what information they need to make those decisions.

For the good of our state, our residents, and our economy, I urge you to pass HB 2947 with full funding.

Thank you for your consideration,
Louisa Hooven
VP of Political Action, AAUP Oregon