



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

March 10, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2408 - Support

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala, Harbick, 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 2408.

In addition to campus classrooms, our members work in Oregon State University Extension, the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Forest Research Laboratory. OSU Research and Extension programs across Oregon depend on tenured professors, who direct programs, and non-tenured research personnel, who manage labs and perform hands-on research, and other Extension workers who provide community-based engagement. AAUP-OR supports HB 2408 because it provides funding for these hard working faculty to continue addressing Oregon's most pressing needs.

OSU's Land Grant mission is essential to the economic well-being of our state, and these faculty are the ones who deliver that mission. Over the years, our faculty at the Statewides have developed deep relationships with communities and stakeholders and know Oregon's issues inside and out. As you know, Oregon's Statewides are funded by a declining patchwork of state, federal, and local funds, which can leave faculty with a sense of precarity. HB 2408 provides funding for research personnel and Extension programs, so that the communities they work in receive continuity of services.

OSU's Extension Service was established in 1911, with the intent of informing people about current research developments in agriculture, home and family life, economic development and youth programs like 4-H. Now more than ever, Oregon's farmers and land managers need accurate, Oregon-specific information so that they can make informed decisions about cropping systems,

timber management, and other issues essential to our state's economic prosperity. OSU researchers have decades of expertise in Oregon's issues and simply need the resources to continue building and providing that knowledge.

Please support Oregon State University faculty and the Oregonians they serve by passing HB 2408 with full funding.

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