

Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bobby Levy and I am the State Representative for House District 58, which includes Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties.

I am here to express my strong support for HB 2408-1, which provides essential funding to Oregon State University for its agricultural experiment stations, the OSU Extension Service, and the Forest Research Laboratory. Oregon was founded on our natural resource industries—agriculture, forestry, and ranching have long been the backbone of our state’s economy, culture, and way of life. These industries are still vital today, especially in rural communities like the ones I represent, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they remain strong for future generations.

Our agricultural experiment stations drive research and innovation that directly benefit Oregon’s farmers and ranchers, providing real-world solutions in areas such as soil health, water conservation, and pest management. This funding ensures that research remains at the forefront, helping our producers adapt to ever-evolving environmental challenges while maintaining Oregon’s agricultural excellence.

The OSU Extension Service is another critical resource that connects science with practice, delivering education, technical support, and community programs that benefit farmers, ranchers, and small business owners. These services strengthen our rural economies, providing the knowledge and tools necessary for success in an increasingly complex agricultural landscape.

Lastly, the Forest Research Laboratory plays a pivotal role in advancing sustainable forestry practices, wildfire resilience, and innovative uses for forest products. As Oregon faces mounting challenges from wildfires and changing land use patterns, this funding ensures we continue to support one of our state’s most significant natural resource sectors while preserving our forests for future generations.

**By passing HB 2408-1, we are reaffirming our commitment to the very industries that built Oregon** and continue to sustain our rural communities. I urge my colleagues to support this measure and invest in the future of Oregon’s agriculture, forestry, and natural resource industries.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Representative Bobby Levy  
House District 58