



Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Association  
200 Warner–Milne Road, Oregon City, OR 97045

March 11, 2025

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and committee members

**RE: HB 2408 - OSU Statewide Public Service Programs Funding**

On behalf of 255 Clackamas County Master Gardeners, we strongly support the proposed **OSU Statewide Public Service Programs funding** (OSU Statewides) requested in **HB 2408** to continue OSU Statewides' mission for a resilient and prosperous future for all Oregonians.

The OSU Extension Service is one of three statewide public service programs. It engages people, families, businesses, and communities to help solve problems, manage resources, and develop leadership in both rural and urban areas.

In **HB 2408**, the **OSU Statewides** requests a total of **\$207.2M** which includes a funding increase of **\$17.5M for full continued service level funding** to sustain core mission programs and services as well as **\$6M in new funding to build capacity** to bolster and expand programming in critical areas across OSU Extension, Agriculture Experiment Stations and the Forest Research Lab.

As active OSU Extension volunteers, we see, firsthand, how Extension programs engage people and families to better their lives. Each year, Extension Master Gardeners teach thousands of local gardeners how to grow their own food and how to garden using practices that build soil, conserve water, and help wildlife.

Through our volunteer work, we know the strong need for and interest in home-grown, quality food. We also know the urgent need for information about gardening during this time of rapidly changing climate. That's why we are pleased to see the proposed new initiative to address increasing resiliency of our food system, communities, and the natural resources.

With your **SUPPORT of HB 2408**, the **OSU Statewides** will be well-positioned to tackle these issues head-on, fostering a more resilient and prosperous future for all residents of Oregon.

Sincerely,

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