



# Crook County

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March 07, 2025

Senate President Rob Wagner  
Speaker Julie Fahey  
Senator Kayse Jama, Senate Majority Leader  
Representative Ben Bowman, House Majority Leader  
Senator Daniel Bonham, Senate Republican Leader  
Representative Christine Drazan, House Republican Leader  
Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair Ways & Means Committee  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair Ways & Means Committee  
Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senate President Wagner; Speaker Fahey; Leaders Bonham, Bowman, Drazan and Jama; Ways & Means & Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez; and Capital Construction Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse:

As a Crook County Commissioner, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 2408, which provides essential funding for the Oregon State University (OSU) Statewide Public Service Programs, including the OSU Extension Service, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Forest Research Laboratory. These programs play a critical role in supporting rural agricultural communities like ours, delivering innovative research, hands-on education, and community-driven solutions that strengthen Oregon's economy, natural resources, and workforce.

Under OSU's land-grant mission of learning, discovery, and engagement, OSU Statewide serve Oregonians by integrating state-of-the-art research with community-based education. Their work has a profound human, economic, and environmental impact, achieved through collaborative partnerships with OSU colleges, Oregon Sea Grant, government agencies, and other institutions.

State funding enables the strategic placement of research and Extension professionals across Oregon, ensuring adaptable and responsive programming that meets local needs. OSU Statewide relies on state appropriations, allocated by the legislature as a line item in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's budget, to leverage additional funding from federal, local, and external sources. This financial support is critical to sustaining and expanding these invaluable services.

For the 2025-27 biennium, OSU Statewide are requesting:

- **\$17.5 million increase** for continued service level funding to sustain core mission programs and services.

- **\$6 million in new funding** to build capacity in critical areas, strengthening Oregon's economic resilience, community vitality, and workforce readiness.

This investment will enhance applied research and Extension initiatives, including:

- **Supporting Oregon's agricultural industries**, from beef cattle and coastal seafood to wheat, potatoes, and specialty crops, through research stations in key regions.
- **Bolstering Oregon agriculture's resilience**, providing vital research to help producers adapt to changing climates, emerging pests, and market challenges.
- **Advancing forestry research and natural resource management**, promoting sustainable forest practices, innovative wood products, and resilient ecosystems.
- **Strengthening community engagement and economic development**, with programs addressing agrivoltaics solutions, coastal community economics, behavioral health, and housing.

OSU Statewide has consistently demonstrated their ability to drive economic growth, improve resource management, and enhance community well-being. Continued investment in these programs is crucial to ensuring the prosperity of Oregon's rural communities, including Crook County.

I strongly urge your support for House Bill 2408 and the OSU Statewide' 2025-27 funding request. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to Oregon's agricultural and natural resource sectors. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Brian Barney  
County Commissioner

Cc:

Senator Anthony Broadman  
Senator Diane Linthicum  
Senator Mike McLane  
Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson  
Representative Jason Kropf  
Representative Emerson Levy  
Representative Mark Owens  
Representative Werner Reschke