



Crook County

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March 11, 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, the OSU Statewides 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. The OSU Statewides rely 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 Statewides 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.

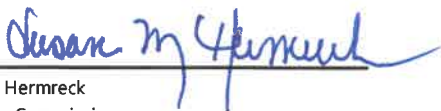
This investment will enhance applied research and Extension initiatives, including:

- **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 agrivoltaic solutions, coastal community economics, behavioral health, and housing.

The OSU Statewides have 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 Statewides' 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,

X 

Susan Hermreck
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