






“The Voice of Oregon's Wheat Producers Since 1926”

OREGON WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE

115 SE 8th Street  Pendleton, OR 97801  541.276.7330  www.owgl.org

Senator Kate Lieber
Representative Tawna Sanchez
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways & Means Committee

RE: OSU Statewide Public Service Programs

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez,

The Oregon Wheat Growers League is a nonprofit trade association representing wheat producers across the state. The League strongly supports investments in research and extension activities, viewing those as part of the fundamental infrastructure for our industry's long-term success. Oregon wheat producers value the relationship with Oregon State University as a state land grant university serving rural parts of the state.

Oregon wheat producers rely on OSU's statewide programs and research stations to address the unique challenges of wheat production around the state. In the 2025-27 biennium, OSU seeks a \$23.5 million increase for the OSU Statewides programs to continue current service levels, restore critical technical positions and expand the practical application of research with strategic investments to support ag economists at research stations.

Of particular importance to Oregon wheat producers is the continuation of current service level. For wheat, we would define that as also including the necessary funding to restore faculty research assistant positions. The proposed funding would restore cuts in recent years to critical faculty research assistant positions in the breeding, pathology and cereal grain quality. These positions are critical as they are the individuals that get plants in the ground, materials through the lab and have the direct applied aspect for research work conducted by the university.

In addition to the critical need to support continued service level funds and the resources to restore positions, OSU also looks to expand services through investing in agricultural economists. This investment would help ensure research reaches growers effectively, improving sustainability and our return on investment.

As you balance the financial needs of a variety of programs throughout the state, we ask you to consider the vital role of ag research and the OSU statewide programs in maintaining a viable wheat industry, ensuring our ability to meet our society's need for safe, nutritious, and affordable food supplies. Investments to these programs fundamentally supports the future of rural ag communities and all Oregonians. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Erin Hansell-Heideman, President