

April 30, 2025

Senator Janeen Sollman
Representative Ricki Ruiz

Co-Chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon State University Extension Funding

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the importance of the Oregon State University Extension Service. I currently serve as chair and am writing on behalf of the Extension Community Advisory Network (ECAN). Our ECAN members represent rural and urban Oregon communities, across a variety of industries and perspectives. Our role is to advise the OSU Extension Director on needs, opportunities and programmatic directions.

The OSU Statewides — OSU Extension, Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Laboratory — are the foundation of OSU's land grant mission, serving as a critical link between the university, Oregon's communities, and a broad network of community partners and collaborators.

OSU Extension offers programming in every county of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs to meet local challenges and help every Oregonian thrive. Now, more than ever, OSU Extension is serving a critical role in economic development, community vitality and workforce readiness. Across all program focus areas and in all corners of the state, Extension is working to address emerging needs while continuing ongoing work that supports:

- Healthy communities and economies
- Resilient and productive forests and natural ecosystems
- Sustainable agriculture and food systems
- Thriving youth, individuals and families

We are asking you to support \$207.2 million in operational funding for the OSU Statewides. This investment includes a \$17.5 M increase for full continued service level funding to sustain core mission programs and services so the OSU Statewides can continue their essential work in Oregon. This request is informed by and centered on critical needs of agriculture, forestry, public health, youth and communities.

State funding for the OSU Statewides provides for strategic placement of research and Extension professionals across Oregon to deliver comprehensive, coordinated and interdisciplinary programming that is adaptable and responsive to local needs. State funding is also critical to leverage other funding from federal, local and external sources to support this essential work. The OSU Statewides work with

advisory groups, such as ECAN, at state, programmatic and local levels to ensure that your investment is directed toward addressing needs and priorities of Oregon's communities.

We recognize the difficult decisions you will have to make. Please consider that maintaining the investment in OSU Extension and the OSU Statewides will have a lasting impact on Oregon's people, communities, and industries.

Sincerely,

Alex Paraskevas

Alex Paraskevas
Chair, Extension Community Advisory Network

cc. Co-Chair Senator Kate Lieber
Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez
Co-Vice Chair Senator Fred Girod
Co-Vice Chair Representative David Gomberg
Co-Vice Chair Representative Greg Smith

ECAN Members

Sherrie Wilkins, Gilliam County
Kevin Richards, Jefferson County
Suzi Frederickson, Morrow County
Lynn Morley, Wheeler County
Mike Weber, Jefferson County
Peggy Prickett, Coos County
Alec Oliver, Grant County
Katie Howard, Wallowa County
Michelle Kaseberg, Baker County
Bruce Bartlett, Washington
Anne Goetze, Clackamas County
John Fine, Douglas County
Ginnie Grilley, Lane County
Betty-Coe de Broekert, Lane County
Mike Barsotti, Linn County
Craig Pope, Polk County
Beth Emshoff, Multnomah County
Lauren Rodgers, Deschutes County