



April 17, 2017

Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 5524; Oregon State University Budget

Dear Chairs Monroe and Smith Warner, members of the committee,

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association ("OCA") is the voice of the cattle industry in Oregon. We represent over 2,000 ranchers in Oregon and aim to help grow Oregon's beef industry and promote environmentally and socially sound economic practices in producing beef products sold worldwide.

We work closely with the Oregon State University (OSU) Statewide Extension Services ("Statewides") on a variety of issues and use them as a resource for increasing efficiency of our operations and to implement the best environmental practices and newest science on our ranches. The Statewides are a part of the heartbeat of our communities, connecting ranching and animal husbandry to our cities, counties and across the state

The staff of the Extension Services is keenly aware of ranchers work on the ground. Services provided are multifaceted. Farmers receive information on noxious weeds affecting rangeland 300 miles away, or water shortages just across the county. A few examples of recent contributions to our ranchers from the Statewides' animal and rangeland science programs include:

- Getting more out of our land and cattle by understanding feed sources, the benefits of different plant species, and strategies for moving or dispersing cattle to optimize feed sources and soil health;
- Analyzing various traits of cattle and breeding opportunities to improve herd health and bolster production;
- Collaborating with industry and not-for-profits to rebuild sage-grouse habitat and eliminate non-native plants like juniper and cheat grass.

OSU field stations throughout Oregon are industry leaders and imperative to the ongoing future of our beef and cattle industry and these types of projects and research. We ask that the

committee restore \$9.4 million above the Governor's Revised Budget specifically to support the Oregon State University Statewide Extension Service Programs.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Rosa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jerome Rosa
Executive Director