

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

My name is Beverley Froemming. I am a retired high school science teacher. As a retired person, I can choose how I spend my time. By volunteering with Wasco County 4H, I have found an educational activity that is worthy of my time. The Extension Service is a valuable asset to our community of young people.

While teaching, I was a coach for our high school robotics team. The middle school had no in-school program for robotics. 4H stepped up and offered an after-school program in robotics. This gave me the feeder program that I needed to develop successful teams at the high school level. Students came prepared and enthusiastic for my program, thanks to 4H. I am very grateful for what the Extension Service made available and continues to do.

This spring, when schools went to online learning as a result of the COVID pandemic, so did our local 4H. Student members of 4H learned Scratch programming via Zoom and online learning modules. I was asked to give feedback to their created programs, which I gladly agreed to do. Again, 4H was there to provide additional education support for these students.

If there was any doubt about the value of these programs, I hope I have given you reasons to provide funding support for OSU Extension and Statewide programs. Children are an investment in our future and worthwhile expense.

Thank you for your consideration,

Beverley Froemming
Retired Science Teacher, The Dalles High School, The Dalles, OR



Oregon State University
Foundation

Oregon 4-H Foundation
4238 SW Research Way
Corvallis, Oregon 97333-4015

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July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick

Representative Susan McLain

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 Frederick and Representative McLain,

On behalf of Oregon 4-H Foundation Trustees, I would like to thank you for considering continued investment in OSU Extension Service youth programming which includes Oregon 4-H Youth Development.

The 4-H program's ability to quickly adapt to current events affecting all Oregon youth is a testament to the 4-H faculty's strong commitment to empowering young people to continue to learn and thrive. Although their camps, conferences, workshops, fairs and other in person events were canceled, postponed, or modified, our 4-H community is resilient. The young people we serve who have had their beloved 4-H year cut short are fighting for some sense of normalcy in these times of social distancing and the 4-H faculty and volunteers they rely on have not disappointed them. 4-H programming has continued and has remained accessible to all Oregon youth. As a supplemental education program 4-H youth development is critical to positive mental health and helping our youth to thrive across the state.

The Oregon 4-H Foundation's mission is to advance the Oregon 4-H Youth Development Program through acquisition of resources and developing partnerships to expand outreach, and maximizing stewardship of resources, grants and awards. This past March our trustees shifted fundraising priorities to help meet the expanding financial need of our critical 4-H programs. We have helped support innovative programs that will provide youth with quality 4-H programming. A few examples include "Camp in a Box – Adventure Awaits," which will provide "camp-like" activities including a service project that can be done from home and virtually with other camp participants. The foundation has also provided funds for the purchase of a 360-degree camera which will enable educational tools such as 360 video and augmented reality.

OSU Extension is leading the way in youth development programming and the impact of programs such as 4-H stretches far beyond a member's youth. Now more than ever, an investment in Oregon 4-H Youth Development today is an investment in our statewide community that has and will continue to positively touch the lives of all Oregonians now and into the future.

Sincerely,


Dru Sloop
President

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

I am writing in support of the OSU Extension Program. I have been involved with Extension literally my entire life since my father was an Extension Agent. My siblings and I all carried several different 4-H Projects and benefited from the experience.

As a parent, I decided to become a 4-H leader for my kids and other children in our small community. We have had many different projects ranging from foods, animals, photography, entomology and art. 4-H has provided children an opportunity to learn things that they would not learn in school. It also teaches responsibility, teamwork, record keeping and public speaking. I have had teachers tell me that they can tell which students have been involved in 4-H because they are more responsible, self-confident and have better presentation skills.

4-H'ers are also great volunteers that do lots of community service. Clubs do clean-up projects in their community, plant trees, have petting zoos where they share their knowledge of animals to others, help at community events and so much more. 4-H offers something for all children. Besides learning new things they meet kids at camps and fairs all over the state who are also in 4-H. These relationships and lessons learned will last a lifetime.

We have many dedicated volunteer leaders who put in countless hours working with their club members. All the leaders know that 4-H is a great program that gives kids something fun and educational to do that will also help them to be successful young adults.

Extension plays a very important role in a farming community by helping farmers to have access to the knowledge and research that OSU provides for them to grow their crops successfully. This is extremely important during this pandemic as we face food shortages and supply chain issues.

The Master Gardener program is very beneficial in helping people to grow gardens so they can produce food and to identify pests that may be invading their gardens. More people are growing their own vegetable gardens during this difficult time.

Family, Community, Health programs offer nutrition and food preservation lessons to help families provide for their needs. During this time of the Covid virus more and more people are wanting to learn how to do food preservation and OSU Extension has been a great resource to meet those needs.

I understand that you are having to deal with some difficult budget issues. I believe that Oregon State University Statewide Programs are well established and the staff and volunteers are committed to helping solve many of the current problems facing Oregon. Oregon families, businesses and communities have depended on the Extension Service and other OSU Statewides to provide research, education and 4-H opportunities for many, many years.

Please consider the long term effect and economic cost of any reduction to OSU Statewide programs and how it affects people and the future of our communities.

Sincerely,

Anne Holmstrom, 34 year Volunteer 4-H Leader

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: 2020/21 funding for OSU Extension Service and Statewides
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 12:36:06 AM

To: Representative Susan McLain
Senator Lew Frederick

I am writing concerning the budget discussions regarding the funding for the OSU Extension Service, the statewide Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Forest Research Lab which provide natural resource stewardship, sustainable food and forestry production, and community economic development and resilience.

I have served on the OSU Extension Community Advisory Network (ECAN) since 2011 and have witnessed the value Extension has for rural communities—this is obvious—but, just as important the value for the urban and suburban regions of the state.

On 26 May 2020 a team made a presentation at the Washington County Commissioner Work Session on “Food Access and Partnerships to Improve Community Health”. I represented the OSU ECAN, and spoke to the value of “urban agriculture”; people growing their own food. In this time of pandemic, the ability to grow, harvest, preserve and cook one’s own food is a critical survival skill. Other team members were staff from OSU Extension Service, Wash Co Health and Human Services, Oregon Food Bank, Adelante Mujeres, Meals on Wheels People, and other non-profit service organizations working to feed people. This degree of partnership is an inherent part of the work the OSU Extension Service does.

As the presentation on food access proceeded, I noted that various elements of the Extension Service were included on virtually each slide. The Master Gardeners provide research-based horticultural information to the general population at no cost, and directly contribute leveraged volunteer time and expertise to on-the-ground support for creating and sustaining demonstration, school and community gardens. Extension’s 4-H youth development program trains young people in aspects of food production, as well as leadership. The OSU Small Farms Program creates actual farmers. The OSU Master Food Preservers provide free information on safely preserving our own nutritious food. Cooking classes are taught in conjunction with the Food Bank.

SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) is a federal program funded by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) providing nutrition education and obesity prevention. OSU Extension contracts with Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) to bring this nutrition education to limited income Oregonians in all 36 Oregon counties.

In short, the OSU Extension Service has staff throughout the state, working on multi-faceted research and education projects to directly serve residents in order to create a more resilient and healthy well-fed population. The value of these skills cannot be over-emphasized as the global pandemic grinds on. Please consider the ubiquitous value of the Extension Service to all Oregonians as you navigate the difficult financial challenges facing the state.

Thank you for your dedicated efforts on our behalf.

- Bruce Bartlett
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MAIN OFFICE
1749 SW Airport Ave,
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541.207.3915
2TownsCiderhouse.com

7/4/2020

David Takush
Head Cidermaker, Co-owner
2 Towns Ciderhouse
Corvallis, Oregon

Dear respected members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in support of the Oregon State University Food Science and Technology fermentation program funding. The fermentation program funding supports the dairy, brewing, and enology (wine) pilot plant managers along with distilling faculty, wine faculty, and base line funding for research and innovation projects.

Please note that our business, now the third largest cider producer in the entire nation, which now employs over 82 full time people in our local community, would not exist as it does today without the OSU Food Science department or the fermentation program.

The fermentation science program supports our states incredible beer brewing industry which is famous worldwide. The fermentation science program also supports our state's grape growing and award-winning wine industry as well. Both industries are strong economic drivers in Oregon.

OSU's fermentation science programming also supports a diverse fermentation industry, which stretches beyond beer and wine to hard cider, cheese, mead, and now even hard seltzer -one of the fastest growing beverage categories ever seen in modern history.

The program contributes greatly to both students and industries, delivering educated employees, work force training, product development and innovation, and applied research to solve industry challenges.

Cuts will have drastic impacts on the program and in turn will impact beverage and food industries that are already seeing unprecedented challenges.

As a small business owner, I understand that budgets have to be made and that these are difficult times, however, because of the enormous direct and indirect impacts that fermentation industries have on Oregon's economy, identity, and heart, I am writing to stress the importance of providing adequate funding for OSU's fermentation programming.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

David Takush
Head Cidermaker, Co-owner
2 Towns Ciderhouse
Corvallis, Oregon

July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol H-178
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Legislator and Committee members,

As someone who has benefited majorly from the existence of 4-H, I ask you to please not cut the Extension program's budget. I understand that there are many things that need funding statewide, and that the money must come from somewhere. However, 4-H is a program the youth of Oregon needs now more than ever. With the closures of schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become even more important to find ways to keep kids engaged in the world around them. 4-H provides the tools that parents need to keep their kids learning and engaged in a time when they may be unable to leave their homes. Even more so, it provides a place for kids to socialize with people outside their families. I know that at least within my club we have made sure to make our monthly Zoom meetings not only a place to update parents on what is going on, but also a place where the kids can connect with each other so they can nurture the friendships they made at our in-person meetings before the pandemic.

4-H has had a major impact on my life personally. I came into the program in my sophomore year of high school amidst a deep depression. I was struggling with school, friends, and had thoughts of suicide. 4-H provided me with a place where I could be myself, learn about things I never thought I would want to learn about, and grow as a leader. This program, in a very real way, saved my life. 4-H means many different things to many different people, but I know the end goal is always the same: to help kids learn and grow, not only in their project areas, but as leaders, community members, and as people. Cutting the budget for this program would mean fewer opportunities for kids to find out what 4-H means to them and what it has to offer.

Sincerely,

Ashley Armstrong
Josephine County
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(541)-226-6161
Dr.Ashley.Armstrong@gmail.com

7/22/2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol H-178
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

My name is Daniel Johnson. I am writing to you today to express my concerns on possible budget cuts to the Oregon State 4-H Program. I understand that these are difficult economic times, and there are some difficult decisions that need to be made. However, I would like to take a moment to explain what this program has meant to me.

I have been in 4-H for 9 years. When I first started 4-H, I was very shy and withdrawn. But today at 15, I am able to give presentations, speak to the public, have talked to our Clackamas County Commissioners at the County Fair, and have been successful in competitive interviews at both state and national levels, to name a few. My brother, like me, was very shy when he started 4-H. However, going through this amazing program, he has gone on to give Ted Talks and speeches to thousands of people, and he has also become an Agricultural Educator, positively influencing the next generation of youth.

4-H has also taught me about respect, responsibility, leadership and pride in my community. I have learned the joy of helping others and the impact it has when you act selflessly. With these skills, I along with fellow 4-Hers, have organized many community service events, educational 4-H meetings and events to educate the public on agriculture and its importance.

While competing at the county and state levels, I have seen first-hand how this program has positively impacted my peers. I have also seen how this program has impacted older members like my older brother, who was in 4-H throughout his formative years, along with a group of friends who have maintained connections and activities within the program and in their respective careers.

Throughout these difficult times we are in now, 4-H has been a constant source of stability and comfort. We have been able to continue our activities virtually and have maintained social distancing. While a lot of other youth programs have discontinued or shut-down, 4-H has continued meetings, competitions, and other events through virtual formats or social distancing. Many of the youth in 4-H have greatly appreciated the time and effort staff are putting into ensuring that 4-H stays like 4-H, including giving us opportunities to still display our work and holding meetings virtually so that the youth and adult members can stay connected to the program socially.

4-H has also inspired many of its members, including myself, to get more interested and involved with our communities and state government.

In closing, I would like to again ask for your careful consideration while looking at making budget cuts that could potentially reduce the 4-H educational support to the youth and their communities. I would implore each one of the committee members to reach out to a 4-H member and listen to what this program means to them. And please remember, we are the future.

Sincerely,

Daniel Johnson
Clackamas
41303 SE Trubel Rd.
Sandy, OR 97055
971-288-7918

CC. Anita Azarenko, Vice Provost for Extension & Engagement; OSU Extension Director (Interim)
Marilyn Lesmeister, OSU Extension 4-H Program Leader (Interim)
Roberta Lundeberg, OSU Extension 4-H State Ambassador Advisor

July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol H-178
900 Court Street
Salem, Or 97301

I am writing this letter to express the importance of the OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program for our local communities and youth. I understand the difficult economic times our state is facing and that difficult decisions need to be made. However, I hope you will consider the vital role of 4-H among our youth in rural communities. 4-H provides youth opportunities for innovation, community service, growth, and citizenship. Cutting the budget for this program limits the resources provided to our local communities, halts innovation, and strips away opportunities that many youth in rural communities would not otherwise have access to.

Innovation plays a vital role in the 4-H Youth Development Program. The youth in the program participate in community service projects to meet the needs of their community. Some of these are making blankets for cancer patients, creating dog and cats toys for shelters, creating care packages for foster kids, and fundraising for those in need. I have created and helped with many community service projects in my county. If the 4-H budget is cut, it will make planning these events very difficult.

The 4-H Youth Development Program provides resources for youth and communities. 4-H helps educate youth with resources like YA4-H (Youth Advocates for Health), which trains teen advocates who work with younger youth in community schools to develop healthy eating habits and lifestyles. 4-H Science, Technology and Engineering projects provide a variety of opportunities and resources for youth to learn about and become involved. They can discover science in 4-H and learn about Horticulture, Entomology, Forestry, Geology, Marine Science, Foods, and Clothing projects. They can also learn about engineering and technology and be involved with Aerospace, Computer Science, and Robotics.

There are many opportunities within the 4-H Youth Development Program such as clinics, project development and learning, leadership conferences, and scholarships. Youth are also given the opportunity to expand on their project areas. I own rabbits and have been showing them for 9 years. Because of 4-H I have been able to expand my knowledge of rabbits and do much more with them than I thought possible. 4-H gives youth a chance to attend leadership conferences, create community services projects, facilitate meetings, and to talk to the public.

4-H provides youth with opportunities and resources that allow them to be innovative and expand their knowledge. If budgets are cut, all of these things that the OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program makes possible will become very difficult to do.

Sincerely,

Dylan Boice
Coos County
1431 Central Avenue
Coos Bay Or, 97420
541-808-8689

Gary Wade
Wade & Rufener Orchards Co.
2650 Three Mile Rd.
The Dalles, OR 97058

7/23/20 20

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain

My wife, son, and I operate a 110 acre cherry and pear farm in The Dalles, OR. We started farming cherries 11 years ago, with little knowledge of cherry farming. We would have been totally lost if it wasn't for the seminars and tours, direct help, connections, and expertise provided to us by OSU Extension. Today we consider ourselves fairly successful cherry farmers, and Extension Services has played a major role in helping us get there.

Ashley Thompson, our newer Mid-Columbia Extension agent, has continued providing the type of help we need to run a small farm business successfully. She is willing to come to our farm to discuss problems and solutions whenever they arise. Recently she has taken a lead role on dealing with a serious epidemic of Western X; a disease that could decimate our industry. Not only has she developed literature to help inform farmers about the disease and possible responses, but she has come to our farm and others to help us identify infected trees and discuss solutions. She co-chairs a multi-state effort to find solutions to this looming crisis in our industry, and she brings the findings back to the farming community.

She also took a lead role coordinating overall efforts, gathering PPE, and maintaining connections with orchardists and Health Departments to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the labor camps and during harvest. This pandemic posed a huge threat to orchardist's ability to harvest their crops safely, and to the safety of the community if the spread was not controlled. I am happy to report that we, and most area orchardists, had no reported cases of Covid-19 in our camps, and I believe that the incredibly hard work of Ashley and other Extension staff work was the main reason. That help is still needed and may continue to be for the foreseeable future.

The Extension Service has already seen cuts that threaten its ability to perform all the tasks necessary to help our farming community succeed. Please continue to fund the Extension Services at their present level, or better yet increase their funding. Small rural communities in Oregon are struggling to maintain their way of life. Extension and employees like Ashley are the heroes that help make success possible.

Thank you for any help you can provide,

Gary Wade
Co-Owner Wade & Rufener Orchards

July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain
Co-Chairs, Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

I would like to express support for the continued OSU Extension Program funding. I worked for the OSU Sherman Extension Office for 28 years and saw first-hand, and continue to see, the effect the program has on local communities. If there ever was a program that needs to stay fiscally whole, Extension would be that. Rural counties depend on the expertise they receive, whether it be youth programs, family and healthy living, economic development, and agriculture research, just to name a few.

I served as the Office Coordinator and 4-H Program Assistant at the local Extension office before retiring from a job that I truly didn't consider a job. It was a joy to go to work. Watching the growth of the youth enrolled in the 4-H program was the highlight of the position. Not only did they learn skills in various areas, but life-long skills such as work ethics, respect for others, responsibility traits, coping skills with peers and with adults in a non-school setting, as well as just having fun!

Sherman County's lead industry is agriculture. Programs that were and still are conducted and/or organized by Extension help our farmers keep on top of their industry by educating growers in new technologies and practices.

Healthy living and master gardening information has been shared by our local agent thru social media for all to read. Many have shared this information, allowing it to reach even more residents.

Extensions use of volunteers in most of their programs is unique and extends the adult education further into Oregon communities. I have been a participant of the Extension's Strong Women Program, which is being taught in our local community by an Extension volunteer. Not only does it reach residents in their middle ages through their mid-80's, but the camaraderie for those involved in this rural area is invaluable (especially for those living alone)!

I could continue to list the areas the local Extension office has helped residents in Sherman County as well as other counties. It is a resource that has and continues to be reliable for residents.

During the pandemic, our Extension office has adapted with agents working from home, and one county team member working at the closed office to make sure valuable information is passed on to our residents. The regional unified command for the pandemic relies on a Wasco County Extension Agent to organize donated items, dispersing them to needed agencies.

Extension has been an all-inclusive program that Oregon residents can count on for programs that educate both young and old. I strongly support Extension and hope the Ways and Means Committee will as well.

Sincerely,

Joan Bird

Sherman County Commissioner



July 13, 2020

Senator Betsy Johnson
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Representative Dan Rayfield
Co-Chairs
Joint Ways & Means Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon State University Extension Organic Agriculture Support

Dear Senator Johnson, Senator Steiner Hayward, and Representative Rayfield:

During the 2019 legislative session, funding was provided for two positions with the Oregon State University Extension Service focused on organic agriculture. We are writing to provide an update on the positions, their crucial importance to Oregon agriculture, and to express our concern for future funding.

The nascent OSU Organic Extension Program was established by the organic industry through donations matched by OSU to develop a 0.4 FTE pilot position. This pilot position began building a foundation of programming and support for expanding the number of faculty specializing in organic agriculture at OSU, in part leading to legislative funding for two positions.

With funding for the two positions in place, identification of priority production areas was informed by a broad organic industry stakeholder group, including myself and representatives of Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) member businesses. They identified the number one priority as organic vegetable production, and number two priority as organic forages and pastures. The funding for the positions became available in January 2020. OSU filled the vegetable production position by late January. The second position was ready to begin the hiring process in March when the COVID-19 economic downturn forced OSU to freeze the position. We are now deeply concerned that the positions may be permanently lost due to budget cuts.

Research by OSU and Oregon Tilth shows that farmers need technical support for organic transition and production, plus applied research to solve production, market, and policy barriers. Oregon currently ranks 5th nationally in certified organic acreage and 8th in the number of certified farms. With Oregon's ability to produce a wide variety of crops, there is now considerable momentum for Oregon to be a leader in a number of organic specialty crops. The OSU positions specializing in organic crop production will assist Oregon farmers in accessing the \$50 billion national market for organic products.

22835 Jennie Rd. Lyons, OR. 97358

Advancing the development and growth of the organic industry and community
www.oregonorganiccoalition.org

Since January, considerable progress has been made. The overall organic program is regularly advised by a committee consisting of organic industry organizations. Through a needs assessment of organic vegetable producers and processors supported by the organic industry, four priority areas were identified for outreach and applied research: 1. Cover crops, 2. Organic nutrient management, 3. Organic pest management, 4. Winter vegetable production. Work has begun to address these priority areas. For example, OSU has updated tools for organic nutrient management, and degree day models for organic pest management. A robust research program is active with grant supported projects investigating cover crops, winter vegetable production, and pest management in brassicas. An OSU Organic Agriculture Working Group led by the organic vegetable position is catalyzing organic agriculture related work across Oregon in multiple disciplines from plant breeding to soil health.

There is no question, Oregon is facing a challenging budget situation. As we face budget cuts, it is imperative that we continue to invest in areas that will offer economic growth opportunities. We strongly support these organic extension positions because they are a strategic investment that will assist Oregon in its economic recovery during and after COVID-19 crisis. We urge you to continue permanent funding for both positions as an investment of essential support for Oregon's valuable organic agricultural trade.

Stacy Kraker
President, Oregon Organic Coalition
On behalf of our members and the organic trade in Oregon

The Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC) is a trade support organization, working to advance the development and growth of the organic industry and community in Oregon. The OOC represents volunteer stakeholders--farmers, wholesalers, processors, organic certifiers, scientists, consumers and retailers. We lead promotional activities and advocate for state policy to support and grow Oregon's organic trade.

July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick

Representative Susan McLain

Co-chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Oregon State Capitol H-178

900 Court Street

Salem, OR 97301

To Whom It May Concern:

If we have learned anything during this time, it is that we have to make tough decisions that cannot please everyone. We have to adapt and make tough calls using the information presented to us. I am writing to you today to inform you of my opinion that now is not the time to cut funding from OSU Extension and Oregon 4-H Youth Development Programming. OSU Extension and 4-H Youth Development Programs have the greatest reach people throughout the state to provide much needed assistance and education. I know this because I have seen it myself at the local, county, and state level. In my county, 4-H has provided a virtual nature camp allowing elementary youth to learn more about science and art, explore the area around them, and connect with their peers. It allowed older youth to learn and practice leadership skills as well as connect with younger youth and their peers. For me, it gave me a much-needed purpose and reminder that there are people outside of my home I could help. At the county level, I've seen my extension office provide additional programming for youth, gather food for people in our county, reach out to people in the agriculture industry, and so much more. They have used their

reach to be a resource and friend to people during this difficult time. I truly believe some families would not have gotten through this time without 4-H's assistance. At the state level, the 4-H staff have been facilitating programming and assistance for adults and youth. I know personally that the weekly meetings I go to as a state ambassador have kept me going and motivated during this scary time. I used to just sit around not knowing what to do next, but with the support of 4-H and Extension I was able to pass my classes and become emotionally well again. The amazing thing is that this is just the tip of the iceberg. I know more youth and adults have had the same experience and have relied upon 4-H throughout this pandemic. I believe that 4-H will become even more important as school districts need help providing programming to low income and underserved parts of the community where families there don't have the resources to provide extra learning support and child care. 4-H can help fill these gaps because of the funding they receive. Now is not the time to reduce their funding. If that were to happen, the critical role they provide to the community will be gone and the people who rely upon them will suffer. Please consider this in your budget decision for the future of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jillian Layton

Polk County

398 Stadium Dr. S. Monmouth, OR 97361

9713048009

Jillian.r.layton@gmail.com

July 24, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of support for the amazing contribution OSU Extension has provided to the Columbia Gorge region over the years.

Over the years I have benefited greatly from their services. I had the opportunity to become a master food preserver. My desire to do this stemmed from watching my mother can and preserve food during my growing up years. I had a semi-fear of using a pressure cooker based on misinformation gleaned over the years. Without a firm foundation, I was hesitant to preserve anything more than berry jam. I desired to take advantage of the abundance of fresh produce locally and needed to learn the correct methods. The OSU Extensions course was just what I needed. In addition to learning how to preserve, I gained the knowledge to share that information with others. Providing opportunity to volunteer at local events helped solidify the knowledge of food preservation.

In addition to becoming a Mater Food Preserver, I was totally blessed to participate in becoming a Strong Women Leader. This strength training program has provided an opportunity for many folks in our area to build not only muscle strength, but also community connections. Our group has been meeting for over 5 years. The relationships forged have been great.

During this time of social isolation, OSU Extension staff have reached out to encourage and support volunteer leaders to continue to stay strong and connected via remote meetings.

I am also a semi-retired Registered Nurse. The OSU Extension staff and services have supported healthy community initiatives in our region. Their expertise in health, wellness, community, prevention and collaborative networking, has added great value and strength to our Columbia Gorge region. Their presence and value in our communities is beyond words.

While I know budget adjustments are a real threat to many valuable services, I strongly advise those in position of decision making, to not reduce funding to Extension services. There are few resources, supporting the health of our communities and decreasing their valuable presence would be a shame.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my total support of OSU Extension services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane L. Palmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane Palmer

Date: July-21-2020

Senator Lew Frederick

Representative Susan McLain

Co-chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Oregon State Capitol H-178

900 Court Street

Salem, OR 97031

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

My name is Keira Leinbach. I am from Molalla, Oregon and I am 16 years old. For the past nine years, I have been a part of the 4-H program as a youth participant. Most recently I have become a State Ambassador for Oregon 4-H.

I am writing to you on behalf of the OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development program. As an organization, we understand in these arduous economic times there are many difficult decisions needed to be made. Knowing this information, I would like to share the importance of Oregon 4-H for youth, such as myself, across our great state. The 4-H program is extremely beneficial to all youth involved and is inclusive for youth of any background. Our program offers opportunities for youth to grow and learn, aiding them in becoming more skilled in their adult lives. 4-H empowers youth with the skills to lead for a lifetime. The outreach of 4-H is not limited to community and county participation, but extends to state and even nationwide exposure.

The Oregon 4-H program offers projects to help youth learn about the well-being of animals of all different species, as well as responsibility and compassion. 4-H is not only for youth with animals, but also has many different STEM and craftsmanship projects. With these different projects, youth learn patience along with the skills needed to create and follow through with projects. In addition to the more publicized opportunities in 4-H, this program offers leadership and

national opportunities which are extremely beneficial to youth becoming adults. It gives them knowledge to explore many job fields.

In my personal experience, I have had the opportunity to grow in ways to better myself and the people around me. Due to having the opportunity to lead, I have learned how to work well in large groups and have successful outcomes. Because of this leadership role, speaking in front of large audiences is easier for me, and learning to prioritize my commitments has become simpler. 4-H has also taught me better time management, how to be a responsible member of society, and many other skills that have made my everyday life more fulfilling.

As our state begins to consider the budget, cuts that would reduce 4-H support in Oregon would not be beneficial to youth, families, schools, or our communities. The 4-H program has helped many youth become leaders in today's society, and it will continue to do so with proper funding.

Because of the lack of in-person socializing due to Covid-19, Oregon 4-H has created opportunities for people to stay connected to one another while at home. Youth can now learn better ways to communicate with each other and their clubs from home. Along with this, youth work on their projects for a virtual competition, set personal goals to accomplish their projects in their respected areas along with other unique opportunities in each county. These opportunities aid people in these troubling times by having something to look forward to while social distancing in their homes. During this time, being a part of Oregon 4-H teaches people how to overcome stress and disappointment. Being a part of something bigger than myself has given me motivation to improve myself and help make the best better.

Thank you for taking the time to read what I had to say.

Sincerely,

Keira Leinbach

Clackamas County

P.O. Box 1331 Molalla, OR 97038

503-405-6036

keira.leinbach@gmail.com

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

I am writing in support of OSU Statewide programs. Here in our region, the Southern Oregon Research and Extension program is a vital to our rural economy.

One Project that just received well-deserved attention is hemp research. Here is the lead-n from the Medford Mail Tribune's feature article: Hemp Goes to College:

“Jackson County’s biggest cash crop is getting a boost from science this year as part of an experimental project by Oregon State University to find the best strains of hemp and the most environmentally friendly methods of growing the plant.”

The article also noted hopes here that the legislature will create a “Hemp Commission” to help research and promote this industry which is important in many places across Oregon.

Staff there have found a variety of creative ways to continue research, outreach, and education programs even in this unprecedented time of COVID. Courses and instruction have been shifted to online and even events are held by Zoom or other distance learning technology. As we struggle with issues of public health, our local extension outreach emphasizing safe food practices is especially timely.

We know legislators face tough choices for scarce funding, but support for OSU extension and other statewide programs is an investment that pays off for our struggling economy. Please increase support and the governor’s draft budget puts many statewide programs at risk.

Kevin Talbert
1291 No Valley View Rd
Ashland, OR 97520
541-944-6374

**Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education**

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

I would like to express my strong support for the OSU Extension and Statewide programs in Clatsop County, and throughout the state of Oregon. I serve as the Executive Director of Clatsop Counties Economic Development Organization, CEDR (Clatsop Economic Development Resources) and the Clatsop Community College Small Business Development Center. Throughout my nine years as Executive Director, I have seen firsthand the critical role that OSU Extension has in our community. OSU Extension has formed strong partnerships and collaboration throughout Clatsop County.

Some examples:

I serve as the Chairman of the Clatsop Forestry Economic Development Committee, or CFEDC. This committee is aligned with Clatsop County and serves to educate the community on the importance of the Forest & Wood Products sector to our economy, representing 30% of our economic base. Having a Faculty Forester based out of the Astoria office has been invaluable in communication, education, understanding of the balance of economic growth and stewardship of the forests.

I also serve on the Clatsop County Fisheries committee, organized and championed by Amanda Gladics from Oregon Sea Grant, based out of the Astoria Extension office. Sea Grant has had a tremendous impact on the coastal area served. During the Covid-19 period, Amanda has partnered with our Small Business Development Center in Tillamook to share financial resources available with our fisherman. Amanda and the entire Extension team distributed thousands of masks and hand sanitizers to Agricultural workers and Fisherman in late May in partnership with the Oregon Agriculture Department.

The Clatsop Community College Small Business Development Center and CEDR are the “go to” for all businesses in our community. We have partnered with OSU Extension this summer to collaborate on a digital masterclass series, “Summer Small Business Bootcamp.” Small businesses are the lifeline of our local economy, and OSU Extension saw the opportunity and stepped up to combine Community College and University educational resources.

Working with the Clatsop WORKS Summers Paid Internships for our high school and college students, OSU Extension has brought on a summer intern to be part of the cohort with a goal and focus to support the small business community with marketing efforts. This would not have happened in our community without OSU Extension.

I request continued strong funding support for OSU Extension and the Statewide Programs.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Leahy

Executive Director, CEDR & Clatsop SBDC

[kleahy@clatsopcc.edu](mailto:k Leahy@clatsopcc.edu)

cc: Senator Betsy Johnson

Representative Tiffany Mitchell

July 20, 2020

To: Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

Seven years ago, my family and I relocated to The Dalles, Oregon. We relocated frequently for my husband's career, and in the summer of 2013, we found ourselves in yet another new town where we knew no one. My sons were nine and six at the time. During one of our visits to the library, there was a group of kids outside with big tanks of water. The adult in charge asked my oldest son, "Hey, do you want to drive a robot?" Of course he wanted to, and when he learned he could join a club and build one of the robots himself, he was hooked. This was our introduction to the incredible OSU Extension program in The Dalles.

My children have attended most of the clubs and camps that the Extension offers. Camps were a lifesaver during the long summer months, and after school programs offered much needed enrichment for my technologically advanced kids. For example, they have written code, built and programmed robots, cooked, and constructed rockets. They have learned about photography, aquatic ecosystems, survival, and forensics. They have participated and placed in regional robotics competitions. They have attended field trips to see 3-D metal printers, a surgical robot, and a nuclear reactor. They have visited OSU and Reed College with the Extension. One of my sons even had the opportunity to attend an Arduino class designed for educators, and his attendance was arranged by his Extension Leader.

I can't express how vital OSU Extension is to our community. They provide fun, affordable, and educational programs that are accessible to everyone. When schools closed in the spring of 2020, the Extension immediately started online education programs to keep students engaged. They continue to offer quality programs (with safety modifications) so students still have to opportunity to learn and socialize during the pandemic.

I strongly advise continued funding support for the OSU Extension. The Extension has been instrumental in exposing my kids to the wonders of science and technology, and participation in Extension programs has inspired them to pursue careers in STEM. The Extension provides critical services and support to the youth in our community. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lori Sam
The Dalles, Oregon

07/21/2020

Senator Lew Fredrick

Representative Susan McLain

Co-chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Oregon State Capitol H-178

900 Court Street

Salem, OR 97301

My name is Nicole and I am a sophomore at Sprague High School in Salem, Oregon. I maintain a 4.0 GPA, I'm a county ambassador for Marion County, and I'm a newly appointed State 4-H ambassador. My purpose for this letter is to express my concern about the possibility of reducing the 4-H budget. I understand these are difficult economic times, and there are difficult decisions to make. I think that you should take into consideration keeping the funding for the OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development program. The Oregon 4-H program has tens of thousands of kids enrolled. Each and every one of those kids has a reason that they are in 4-H, and cutting even a small amount of the budget may take that away from them. The 4-H program is meeting the needs of individuals and communities in Oregon with an abundance of different activities, and it makes the best better.

The program provides multiple outlets for kids to explore and learn a variety of skills. 4-H helped me decide my future career. I go back and forth between two households. One of them is in the city and the other in the country. Having the ability to show livestock gave me hands-on experience in veterinary care, livestock management, and overall general health knowledge. These skills would not have been possible without me being a part of the 4-H program. If you haven't already guessed, I plan to become a large animal veterinarian.

4-H has also given me the ability to learn different skills. Photography, baking, woodworking, gardening, and sewing are a few projects that I have participated in with my club and on my own. Some of these skills are sadly not being taught on a regular basis. The funds for 4-H help kids, like myself, learn these dying skills while still possible. Just the other day, I made buttermilk biscuits from scratch for my family - something that without 4-H I wouldn't have had the knowledge or skills to do.

The 4-H motto is "To Make the Best Better." I have witnessed firsthand the way 4-H can affect a person. I have benefited greatly from being in 4-H for 4 years now. I haven't been in 4-H as long as some of the other kids my age, but it makes me conscious of the way 4-H has shaped me. Looking back to before I joined the 4-H program, I would never have imagined I would be representing Oregon as a 4-H State Ambassador, and above all, writing a letter to the State Legislature. 4-H has given me this confidence that I never recognized I had in me. It has given

me pride, passion, and determination. I have developed a series of friendships, and a sense of community I would have never had if it weren't for 4-H.

All in all, 4-H is beneficial to everyone who gets involved. During a difficult time like this, it is essential to keep a sense of normalcy for our youth. We all were still able to virtually meet with our clubs, and for kids with livestock and static exhibits, most county fairs still had a virtual show and auction. This gives kids something to look forward to and work towards. This is not the time to make budget cuts that may reduce 4-H educational support to Oregon youth, families, schools and communities. It is a time to push and put more effort into these vital organizations to help kids like myself learn new skills, keep our minds engaged, and give us something to look forward to on a daily or weekly basis.

Thank you for taking my letter into consideration and listening to my fellow 4-H state ambassadors. We all understand the difficult position you are in and hope that by hearing our testimony you will realize how vital this organization is to the youth in our state.

Sincerely,

Nicole Varner

Marion County

288 Quinalt St. SE Salem, OR 97306

(503)-509-4886

nicolevarner2004@yahoo.com

CC. Anita Azarenko, Vice Provost for Extension & Engagement; OSU Extension Director (Interim)

Marilyn Lesmeister, OSU Extension 4-H Program Leader (Interim)

Roberta Lundeburg, OSU Extension 4-H State Ambassador Advisor

Anita.azarenko@oregonstate.edu

Marilyn.lesmeister@oregonstate.edu

Roberta.lundeburg@oregonstate.edu

July 27, 2020

William Weiler
PO Box 1104
Hood River, OR 97031

To whom it may concern:

Subject: Support for OSU Extension Programs

As an Oregon State University graduate, I was thrilled to learn about OSU array of local Extension programs, particularly here in the central Columbia River Gorge, where many rural residents depend upon the outdoors for their livelihood and/or recreation. During the pandemic, gardening, birdwatching, and exercising outdoors have seen significant increases in participation.

Many of us were greatly looking forward to Year 4 of the Extension created and managed Columbia Gorge Master Naturalist Program, but we had to deal with canceling due to Covid 19. Not to be detoured, OSU Extension staff developed a series of virtual classes about Oregon Natural Resources that have proven to be widely popular.

Master Naturalists remains a standing room only program regarding interest in registration. This program, like Master Gardeners, gives back to various Gorge communities and organizations because these citizens are required to volunteer as part of their certification requirement.

The natural world is one of the few places Oregonians can still go safely for physical, mental and spiritual sustenance. We need to hang on to programs that offer outdoor education opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Weileru

To whom it may concern:

Ashley Thompson has been very helpful with many of the normal things that extension agents do here in the Mid-Columbia region such as hosting presentations with experts in the fields of horticulture and applied research, as well as hosting annual meetings and tours throughout the region providing a platform of learning and innovation. In addition to these consistent annual contributions to our industry she also has been extremely helpful managing a delicate situation with a few of our orchards neighbors that had abandoned orchards that were infected with pear scab so severely that the infection was blowing into our orchard. The landowners did not want to cut down their trees for emotional attachment and reasons of wanting the privacy from the road the trees provided. We feel if it were not for the testimony of Ashley and her persuasion of the landowners that they would not be able to manage the scab infection on their own that the neighbors decided to remove completely all of the infected orchard and we have had little to no scab since these diseased trees were removed. If it were not for Ashley's assistance this could have been a long arduous battle that could have drug on for much longer and led to more potential infection and costly sprays to prevent further infection.

In addition to this example Ashley has been a great resource during Covid 19 helping local growers navigate and acquire available resources from various agencies that were crucial to reduce extra costs for growers already operating on tight margins, and avoid camps being shut down and making harvest nearly impossible. Extension is crucial in this area and as many orchards are going through successional changes the older generations are retiring and younger newer generations are wanting to be more progressive, Ashley has helped greatly bring new ideas and progressive ideas from other growing regions to this area and helping teach the next generation of farmers how to be more efficient and make better more sound scientific management decisions to help their orchards be more profitable in this difficult time of specialty crop production where costs keep rising and returns are not rising at the same pace.

We all know budgets are getting tighter and tighter each year for all of us, production agriculture is a challenging venture and without assistance from extension agents and other similar support most growers struggle to acquire and understand much of the newest and up to date research and technology that is helping pave the way to increases in efficiency and helping make us more profitable. We hope that you consider not reducing funding from these critical aspects of our industry and actually increase funding so that extension can go above and beyond what it doing now as there is still room for more programs and more outreach and collaborative research between extension and the growing community here in the Mid-Columbia.

Thank you for considering not reducing funding and preferably maintaining or increasing the amount of funding OSU extension receives as without it this region as well as many others would suffer and many growers will struggle to adapt and evolve to the newest and science backed practices in these challenging times of meeting global food needs and maintaining profitability in a world of rising costs and declining prices for most agriculture commodities.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely Tim Pitz Assistant Superintendent: Mt Adams Fruit Company White Salmon Washington. Merrit Orchards The Dalles Oregon, Elk Mtn ranches Hood River Oregon.

July 23, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

I am writing in support of continued funding for Oregon State University Extension programs, which add greatly to the health and wellbeing of our community.

I write specifically about my experience with the Strong Women program, a strength training program for older adults which has been successfully introduced and implemented within many Oregon communities. Lauren Kraemer, OSU Extension faculty member, is the “Strong Women Ambassador” for the State, traveling to different Oregon communities to train volunteer leaders. I was trained as a volunteer leader in 2016 and have led classes since then.

Not only does the Strong Women program provide a template of exercises to maintain strength, balance and flexibility among older people, but also provides important social connections for those that participate. While exercising, relationships develop through a common interest to stay strong and healthy and continue outside class. I found this particularly important when moving to the area upon retirement, when developing social connections was important while connecting with others with similar interests.

Lauren Kraemer, our trainer, regularly brings Strong Women class leaders together for program updates and networking opportunities. Not only does Lauren provide program updates but allows the leaders time to discuss challenges and individual program successes.

Lauren’s commitment to the program fuels our initiative to continue – especially in light of the current pandemic, which brought our in-person classes to a halt. Currently, Lauren is working to create online classes for us to maintain our exercise routines while we can’t meet in person. This is crucial for us to maintain our fitness, which is so easily lost as we age.

Maintaining all aspects of good health is an important component of vibrant communities. OSU Extension is an important leader in this goal.

I urge you to maintain OSU Extension program funding at its current level.

Sincerely,

Claire Culbertson
Claire Culbertson

Bill Marick
1620 East 19th Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

I have been involved in Extension Services in Wasco County since my 4-H days as a youth which was in the 1950's. I do not remember how many years my brothers and I were involved, but we spent many years exhibiting our small animals at the county fair and earned the opportunity to go on to the State Fair at least a couple times. We also had the opportunity to go to 4-H summer school at OSU which made me a life-long supporter of the school.

More recently, I had the opportunity to join the Master Gardener program and have been active in that organization since 2004. I recently went through the leadership positions in our chapter and continue to be involved in the leadership team. Wasco County Extension has supported the Master Gardener Program very well all through the years I have been involved. Even with our current situation of isolation and inability to have the group interaction that we usually are able to do, Extension has made sure we still can get our training, do some basic essential services like plant clinics, and continue the business end of the organization that must be done. We are all ready for all of this to be over and get back to being able to provide more services. How we look when all of this is over, Extension will be there to continue to support us. Please do all you can to ensure that the funding for Extension will continue.

Thanks for being there,

Sincerely,

Bill Marick

cc: Claire McMorris, OSU Government Relations Coordinator
Nicole A. Strong, Regional Director

Nichole Schott
PO Box 704
Condon, OR 97823
503-329-4765

July 21, 2020

*Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain,
Co-chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education*

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

I am writing you with regard to the upcoming effort to rebalance of the state budget, and to voice my support for the OSU Extension Service and the funds distributed to support 4H across the counties.

I live in Condon in Gilliam County, Oregon. As with any small town, most of us where many hats. I am a member of our school board and I also am co-leaders for two 4H clubs (sheep and horse). My husband is a board member for the North Central Education Service District and the robotics 4H club leader. As you can imagine, we take on these extra hats to support opportunities for our two children, daughter (12) and son (10).

I'm not sure I can express to you how important 4H is to small communities like Condon. We don't have a parks and recreation district to provide sports and camp opportunities which many communities enjoy. The sports offerings we do have are through the school. With the diminished funding for schools over the decades, the elective options for kids have dwindled significantly. The one thing that we do have that creates additional opportunities for kids to have new experiences, grow their skills, and have leadership opportunities is 4H.

Gilliam County 4H is such an important part of our community. Volunteers can only do so much. The program's greatness comes from the structure and support provided by OSU and our local Extension employees. And, it is really remarkable to think about how many clubs and activities we are able to make happen with so few resources.

Please do what you can to retain these programs at their current local staffing levels. Rural Oregonians know how to make the best with what we have, but we need the continued support and resources to keep things going. The investment you make in these program is truly building the future leaders for tomorrow.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Nichole Schott
4-H Leader and Parent

July 23, 2020

RE: Support for OSU Extension Service and Statewides

Dear Senator Frederick:

I am writing to encourage your continued financial support of the OSU Extension Service and the Extension Research Stations across the state of Oregon.

I have been involved with both Clackamas and Lane County Extension over the last 30+ years as a 4-H leader and as an advisory committee representative in both counties. My children grew up in the Clackamas county 4-H program and our grandchildren currently participated.

I currently serve on the Clackamas Co Extension Advisory Board; a group of volunteers from both Extension programs as well as the general public. This group has been the backbone of successful projects such as the Oregon City Farmer's Market; educating local communities about Extension programs for the 2009 4-H and Extension Special Tax District that provides permanent funding for Extension in Clackamas County; and most recently planning for a new permanent building for Clackamas County Extension for the next 100 years.

This pandemic has brought on very stressful times for Extension staff and volunteers. Since March our 4-H staff has developed a whole new venue for keeping volunteers and youth active in project work and up to date on the COVID-19 situation. They have a virtual county fair planned for August that 500 youth will participate in including judging for horse and dog projects and a livestock auction.

Our 32nd Tree School was canceled in March. This is the largest family forest event in the US and attracts 625 woodlot owners to a one-day event with 70 classes. These folks fight for a registration spot with over 400 registering in the first couple of days. Classes were full by the end of the week this year. Many clients donated their fees and instructors volunteered to teach if we could find a way to make it happen. Our hardworking forestry staff developed virtual Tree School with a series of 20 classes (with the same professional instructors) that were viewed by 100 people in each class which is more then we could have ever handled on campus.

Home Horticulture and Master Gardeners have also gone virtual. Calls coming into the Extension Office are sent to a ticket system that routes questions from the public to our cadre of 50 volunteers who would typically be in the MG clinic on site.

North Willamette Extension Research Center (NWREC) is also a valuable part of the information that Extension shares with the public and especially the farmers. They need funding to continue their job finding the best species, and educating farmers of safe ways to spray and grow their crops.

I grew up in Extension and have been a volunteer since 1985. It was comfortable to know that Extension is pretty much the same everywhere in Oregon. But, the old ways are gone and now Extension needs funding to develop the new ways.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Cheryl Keithan
12303 Fishermans Way
Oregon City OR 97045
ckeithan@msn.com

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain, I ask for your attention to the continued funding situation for Oregon State University Extension and the deep impact their efforts has on communities throughout the state. Here in my home, Klamath County, extension is a vital link to a very diverse group of stakeholders.

Our local Extension is a key resource in our community. I personally am involved with both production agriculture and the 4-H program. Extension is actively engaged in trying to resolve many of the challenges that face our state now, as well as in the future. If we have learned anything from the Covid era, locally sourced and reliable food should be very high on that list. Our extension is engaged in that challenge, willing and able to find both solutions to not only produce local food, but help link farmers with consumers. Interest in the OSU Master Gardener program has greatly surged in the past few months, and the program was prepared to engage citizens suddenly interested in growing their own food. Our local extension has made great strides in promoting local farm to table, and has helped to open pathways to traditionally underserved consumers. Local school students now consume fresh local products in the cafeteria; a great tribute to the multilevel cooperation Extension has built.

As you may know, water is a extreme challenge in the Basin. Extension promises to be able to help find durable solutions and build community agricultural resilience through innovation. In my opinion, the most dangerous words in our language are “we’ve always done it that way”. Extension is engaging on many fronts, from implementing new conservation measures, utilizing technologies to improve both efficiency and productivity, and developing new cropping strategies that will ensure both our community and state vitality in the future.

This brings me to a program very close to my heart, 4-H. I am a product of the 4-H program. In it, I learned values like commitment, hard work, and ethics that built the foundation of who and what I am. I am proud to volunteer a great amount of time to this program, and at the end of the day, when the program and the time investment to it by many volunteers has greatly improved many young people, that is something I take a deep amount of both pride and satisfaction in.

Extension is a core thread that runs through all the communities in Oregon. Although their impact is different in other communities than it is in mine, it is no less significant. Extension is a essential link to one of our most important yet neglected relationships, the land that feeds and sustains all of us. They are uniquely positioned to navigate our state and communities through many challenges; both current and yet to come. Extension is definitely one of the most critical elements for our continued vitality as a state and society. Please treat their funding accordingly.

Tyrel Kliewer, Klamath County

Senator Frederick and Representative McLain.

Co-chairs of Ways & Means subcommittee on Education.

I am writing this letter in support of funding for the Oregon State Universities Extension Service and all its programs that serve our community needs with accessible educational information. I believe this because I have both observed and participated in some of the programs they provide.

Some of the community service examples include 4H for youth that provides exposure to a variety of varied positive activities for young people.

Forestry and timber management for landowners is another important program which provides educational information, training and exposes people to potential employment opportunity.

The Master Gardeners program provides fact based information to homeowners and landowners but this group also assists with volunteer support of a large number of public facilities, provides food security and hosts many public events.

There are many more examples that could be provided but I feel the success of the Extension service in our communities needs to be maintained at this time when so many things we took for granted are not available and Extension has worked to be there for us all.

Kirk Pearson

Colton, Oregon.



July 17, 2020

Senator Betsy Johnson
900 Court St. NE, S-209
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Ron Noble
900 Court St. NE, H-380
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
900 Court St. NE, S-213
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Brian Boquist
900 Court St NE, S-311
Salem, OR, 97301

Representative Dan Rayfield
900 Court St. NE, H-275
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Greg Smith
900 Court St. NE, H-482
Salem, OR 97301

Speaker, Representative Tina Kotek
900 Court St. NE, Rm. 269
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Fred Girod
900 Court St. NE, S-401,
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Organic Agriculture Support at Oregon State University Extension

Dear Co-Chairs and Co-Vice-Chairs of the Joint Ways & Means Committee and other state legislative leaders,

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges in 2020. It has revealed vulnerabilities in our national food system, created massive economic disruptions, and killed over 135,000 U.S. citizens. We recognize the critical role state leaders play in advancing policies to mitigate the pain created by the pandemic and in ensuring smart investments for the state's future.

It is hard to believe that just in January we were able to visit the Capitol with farmers and employees from our Organic Valley McMinnville Creamery for the event "Organic Grows A Better Oregon." We were grateful that a good number of you spoke at the event and we, along with other organic stakeholders, had an opportunity to visit or share materials with you or your offices.

Organic agriculture is a growing and vital segment of the Oregon economy, supporting businesses, retailers, and farmers. Included is a fact sheet on organic agriculture statistics in Oregon.

One of the topics we acknowledged at the January event was how, during the previous 2019 legislative session, funding was provided for two positions focused on organic agriculture with the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service. This multi-year investment was meaningful and is a prime example of public resources that enable the development and dissemination of content that makes a sector efficient and globally competitive.

With funding for the two positions in place, identification of priority production areas was established with support from an industry stakeholder group. The number one priority was organic vegetable production, and the number two priority was organic forages and pastures.

As an organic dairy company, we are extremely encouraged by the focus on forages and pasture, which has the potential to help dairy farmers gain greater production proficiencies and environmental improvements in their hay and grazing systems.

The funding for the positions became available in January 2020, and it is our understanding that OSU filled the vegetable production position by late January.

The second position was ready to begin the hiring process in March, but the COVID-19 economic downturn forced OSU to freeze the position.

Due to state budget constraints, we are deeply concerned that these positions may be threatened or cut. We urge legislative leaders and OSU to not step back from these meaningful investments that will enable continued success of the organic sector in Oregon.

These positions represent strategic investments that were needed before the pandemic, and they are even more crucial now as they allow the state to expand its commerce and leadership in organic agriculture. In general we urge continued funding and commitment to all Oregon-focused agricultural research and education.

We welcome any questions or feedback as you deliberate on the challenging conditions facing Oregon's economy and communities.

Sincerely,



Adam Warthesen
Director of Government and Industry Affairs
CROPP Cooperative | Organic Valley



Steve Pierson
CROPP Cooperative | Organic Valley
Board Director
Sar-Ben Farms, Inc.
St. Paul, Oregon

CC:

Governor Kate Brown

OSU Dean/Director, College of Agricultural Sciences Alan Sams



Organic Valley in Oregon - 2018

39 Family Farms (19 percent of Oregon dairy farms are Organic Valley farms)

\$56 million paid to organic dairy farmers

50 Employees

\$2.06 million in wages paid

\$21 million capital investment, McMinnville creamery (2017)

7.6 million pounds of butter and
12 million pounds of milk powder produced
50 Tanker trucks received per week

Organic Valley products available in
338 Portland grocery stores, and
107 Natural and Co-op stores in the Pacific Northwest

National connection

Organic Valley is America's largest cooperative of organic farmers and one of the nation's leading organic brands. Organized in 1988, it represents more than 2,000 farmers in 35 U.S. states, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom and achieved \$1.1 billion in 2017 sales.



7/21/20

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol H-178
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

My name is Daisy O'Hearn and I am a member of Coastal Ranchers 4-H club located in Newport, Oregon. I am 17 years old and have been in 4-H for nearly a decade. During that time I have grown in so many ways because of the 4-H program. 4-H has given me the opportunity to become a leader in my county, my state, and across the country.

Before I joined 4-H I struggled with my identity and was unsure where I belonged in the world. Now I know who I am. I am strong, I am a leader, and I am an active member in my community. Now more than ever, kids are struggling with their identities and self-worth because of this pandemic. Youth are unable to express themselves through school, interact with their friends, and demonstrate their unique talents with others. 4-H is an outlet where everyone is welcomed, people from all ethnicities, cultures, and religions. 4-H has diversity and has the inclusion that not only Oregon needs but our whole country needs as well.

The funds that are given to 4-H go towards a wide variety of areas including sending youth to college, creating community leaders, and establishing a safe space for youth to interact with mentors. While 4-H is largely a volunteer based program, the funds are vital to help employ the educators of those volunteers. Without money and funding of those resources, the 4-H programs will be negatively affected. I want to urge you to keep our funding and consider the negative impacts of cutting 4-H funding.

4-H is a positive youth development program that teaches sustainability, the importance of record keeping, and responsibility, as well as the most important thing which is encouraging youth to step up and to give back to others. Every county that has a thriving 4-H program can directly see the positive effects. My 4-H leader connected me with the domestic violence shelter in my town, and that same leader also helped me create a community service project to help the women and children in that shelter. As a result, over the last 4 years I have stayed connected with the shelter and had annual community service events to help those in need. Without the encouragement of my 4-H leader, I wouldn't have been able to help my community in the way I have, and I wouldn't have developed those important life skills. The positive experiences I have gone through because of the 4-H program is something that can't be taught in school or even read about in a book; they are unique to each and every child. I know every county has leaders and youth who have the same motivation and determination to help others as I have experienced in my county. Today's kids are the next generation of leaders, and to have a hopeful future, 4-H needs to continually be given funds and resources. 4-H programs make Oregon a better place for the younger generation and in turn, those kids are being taught to actively make their communities better places to live. That is the cycle of 4-H.

I cannot stress enough the profound effect that 4-H has had on me and the positive effect it has had on my community. Being from a rural community, the opportunities are limited for youth development. Nevertheless 4-H has allowed me to have those opportunities that I wouldn't have otherwise experienced.

Cutting the budget for 4-H will take away opportunities from the most vulnerable communities and the youth that need it most. Changing the established program will make it

harder for youth to learn to give back to communities, it will prevent leaders from teaching essential life lessons, and it will negatively affect communities all across Oregon - especially when youth are already experiencing the loss of in-person connections due to Covid-19. 4-H has already set up ways to interact with youth during these stressful and trying times because that's what they have always done. It's part of their established program. They adapt to the needs of the children involved and make sure their member's needs are met with mentors and leaders. We need 4-H in our communities now more than ever. Please do not cut the funding for 4-H programs. The youth in Oregon need 4-H to continue in its full capacity.

Sincerely,

Daisy O'Hearn
Lincoln County
12395 SE Paradise LN
Southbeach Oregon 97366
(541) 971-7222
darlingdaisy2012@gmail.com

July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
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 Frederick and Representative McLain,

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 Citizen Advisory Network.

OSU Extension partners with communities in every county of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs to meet local challenges and help every Oregonian thrive. As one of the three Statewide Public Service Programs—along with the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Laboratory—Extension serves as a critical link between the university, Oregon’s communities, and a diverse network of community partners and collaborators.

At a time when other community services have been reduced or slowed due to COVID-related restrictions, OSU Extension has not missed a beat. Nearly the entire workforce shifted to remote work over the course of a week while maintaining public access through email, phone, web meetings, the Extension website and the online Ask an Expert service. OSU Extension has received more Ask an Expert questions already this year than in all of 2019. Faculty and staff experts and trained volunteers provide answers to the public through this service.

Extension’s creative remote and virtual program delivery—including webinars, phone calls, texts, and hard copy mailings—have helped maintain connection and expanded access to critical information. For many online offerings, Extension educators report higher participation than they would have expected for an in-person event.

Now, more than ever, OSU Extension is serving a critical role in community resilience. Across all program focus areas and in all corners of the state, Extension educators have responded quickly with collaborative outreach to address emerging needs while continuing ongoing work.

Healthy communities and economies

In Lincoln County, OSU Extension helped form a collaborative team to assess and act on needs to build resilience among the Latinx community. Team members include fellow on-campus faculty, Lincoln County Health and Human Services staff, student interns, and community members. Immediate goals

are to address the impacts of COVID in the Latinx community. Longer-term work will address barriers to resilience.

An OSU Extension-developed high-speed hand-washing program originally designed for children in school settings was quickly adapted for adult audiences with consideration for cultural relevance in the migrant and seasonal farmworker community. Revised materials and lesson plans in English and Spanish were shared with workers, employers, state agencies, and community partners.

Thriving youth and families

OSU Extension created a youth education resources webpage that helps curate information for families and educators who are juggling new roles during COVID-19.

Of nearly 70,000 youth served by Extension programs, more than 37,000 are in 4-H clubs. When COVID-19 prevented youth from meeting in person with their peers and adult mentors, 4-H educators adapted. Examples include an online statewide animal science challenge, a virtual running club in Lake County to keep kids and families active, and a series of Facebook videos in Washington County that keep kids connected with home-based, hands-on learning activities.

“4-H Central” is a new, weekly, educational magazine for youth and families. Developed by the 4-H team in Marion County, it’s being used statewide and has been featured by National 4-H Council. The 15 bilingual issues have reached more than 353,000 people via social media.

OSU Extension has actively engaged at the county level with 4-H families, volunteers, county elected officials, and community partners to provide for virtual or modified summer fair experiences that prioritize safety while offering opportunities for youth to evaluate their learning and showcase their accomplishments.

Resilient and productive forestry and natural ecosystems

OSU Extension’s new legislatively funded Fire Program hosted a series of free webinars in May to promote wildfire preparedness and prevention.

Tree School Clackamas went online after canceling its popular in-person event in March. The first Tree School Online session debuted with 300 registered participants. Since then, the live classes have rolled out with anywhere from 50 to 100 participants.

Sustainable agriculture, food systems, and gardening

Facing down health and economic concerns, OSU Extension helped orchardists and communities in the mid-Columbia region keep migrant farmworkers and their families healthy while ensuring a successful cherry harvest. Outreach included webinars, information packets, and signage in English and Spanish about masks, social distancing, and proper hygiene. The result of successful collaborations with farmworkers, orchardists, state agencies, and community partners was that while there were a few COVID-19 cases in the area, major outbreaks have been averted.

OSU Extension locations served as distribution hubs for the state's massive PPE distribution to agricultural producers—a joint project of Oregon Department of Agriculture, Office of Emergency Management, Oregon National Guard, and OSU Extension.

Oregon Sea Grant's Extension fisheries specialists partnered with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon seafood industry on an initiative called Eat Oregon Seafood.

More than 40,000 people nationwide have signed up for an online OSU Extension Master Gardener vegetable gardening course. The program is encouraging people to use what they learn to contribute to a national Plant a Row for the Hungry effort.

The Ways & Means Co-Chairs have proposed a 5% cut to the Statewides. In reality, this equates to a 10% cut for the fiscal year. For OSU Extension, this means an estimated \$2.8 million shortfall in FY21 that will be managed through attrition, holding open at least 13-15 vacant positions, reduction in operational spending, and use of carryover funds.

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

The Statewides are a critical part of OSU's land grant mission, fully integrated with its teaching and research missions to serve the state. I urge that these critical programs do not take a disproportionate cut compared to other higher education accounts.

Sincerely,

Mark Labhart

Mark Labhart
Sisters, OR
Chair, Extension Community Advisory Network

cc. Senator Betsy Johnson, Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and Representative Dan Rayfield,
Co-Chairs Joint Ways & Means Committee

ECAN members

Michelle Kaseberg, Baker County
Tatiana Thompson, Benton County
Anne Goetze, Clackamas County
Kevin Leahy, Clatsop County
Scott Russell, Columbia County
Peggy Prickett, Coos County
Sue Williams, Crook County
Dan Sherwin, Crook County
Georgia Nowlin, Curry County
Steve Forster, Deschutes County
John Fine, Douglas County
Alec Oliver, Grant County
Angie Ketscher, Harney County
Nancy Slagle, Hood River County
Kevin Talbert, Jackson County
Kevin Richards, Jefferson County
Valerie Switzler, Jefferson County,
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Pam Zaklan, Josephine County
Ty Kliewer, Klamath County
DeNae Bauer, Lake County
Grant Kitamura, Malheur County
Jared Hibbard-Swanson, Marion County
Suzi Frederickson, Morrow County

Bruce Bartlett, Multnomah County
Alex Paraskevas, Polk County
Mike Trent, Tillamook County
Darcy Sexson, Umatilla County
Bob Durham, Wasco County
Hector Hinojosa, Washington County
Bill Klug, Washington County
Luis Nava, Washington County
Lynn Morley, Wheeler County
Helle Ruddenklau, Yamhill County
Leslie Lewis, Yamhill County, 4-H Program
Representative
Mike Weber, Jefferson County, Agriculture
Program Representative
Betty-Coe deBroekert, Lane County, Family
Community Health Program
Representative
Mike Barsotti, Lynn County, Forestry Program
Representative
Todd Nash, Wallowa County Commissioner,
Association of Oregon Counties
Representative
Craig Pope, Polk County Commissioner,
Association of Oregon Counties
Representative

July 25, 2020

To: Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain, Co-chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

Well I think we can all agree that 2020 has been quite the year and with it are a few words that have come into our every day vernacular that didn't seem quite as important in 2019. Words like pivot, virtual, WFH and pandemic. I'm just a private citizen in Eastern Oregon, but I'm also a wife, a mom to two rambunctious toddler boys, an agricultural banker, a small business owner and a volunteer. As COVID has affected the world around me, I've seen success stories rise from this crisis – one of which has been how the OSU Extension service has adapted and served the citizens of Oregon.

In Eastern Oregon, many of us look forward to the OSU Extension Field Days at our local Experiment Stations. For me, I always attend those at either CBARC (Columbia Basin Ag Research Center) outside of Pendleton, or HAREC (Hermiston Ag Research Extension Center) in Hermiston as they occur in late May and June. Farmers, educators, industry representatives, etc. all converge on different days depending on the commodity, enjoy donuts & coffee in the fields as we look through trial plots, listen to presentations about cutting edge research and network as an agricultural community. If you stick around through the end of the day, you're rewarded with an ice cream social provided by our commodity groups. This year we weren't able to have that in person experience; but I was so impressed with the Extension's adaptation of their "normal" schedule and how they recorded and presented virtual videos on each presentation online. It doesn't surprise me that their attendance in a digital format was even higher than their normal in person event; where our farmers today employ auto-steer and other technologies in their equipment they were able to watch these events online; increasing their knowledge base while simultaneously cultivating the next harvest of wheat, corn or potatoes. The OSU Extension service in Umatilla County pivoted; and in the course of that action provided content that was even more useful to their customers – the Oregon farmer. Now if only we could figure out how to deliver the ice cream sundae experience virtually....

Do you know what COVID-19 has impressed upon me the most since March? The value of essential businesses; and the workforce that supports those businesses. If you're like me, you've experienced the panic of going to the grocery stores and seeing empty shelves. I am fortunate that as a part of my job I have a more in depth understanding of our food chain than the average citizen; and my personal panic was short lived because I understood that the true problem was a supply chain issue, not a food production issue. But what if you didn't have that context? What if you were a mom in the suburbs of Portland, who was anxious each day as to whether or not she'd be able to buy bread and milk for her family? Or what if we truly were facing a food production issue? I pray we never see that.

American agriculture is the backbone of our country; and a key driver to our food security as a nation. While the OSU Extension Service breadth of reach is wide; and you'll read other letters about the great things it is accomplishing across Oregon I'd argue that its most important role is to provide information, research and resources to our essential Oregon farmers and ranchers so that they can successfully and efficiently feed Oregonians; and the world.

I urge you to support OSU Extension and food security in our state with your support of the Statewides. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Darcy Sexson
Stanfield, OR - Umatilla County



July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
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 Frederick and Representative McLain,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the importance of the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Since March, our well-respected OSU Extension family and community health program has responded quickly with new and modified outreach to address emerging needs while maintaining collaborative efforts that impact health and well-being in Oregon's communities. Examples are numerous.

Helping ensure safety and wellness for migrant and seasonal farmworkers:

Heightened concerns for migrant and seasonal farm worker safety precipitated responses in which Extension family and community health educators played major roles. As just one example, a high-speed hand-washing program originally designed for children in school settings was quickly adapted for adults with consideration for cultural relevance. Youth posters were adapted using relatable adult images and lesson plans were rewritten for use by farmers and plant supervisors while working with migrant/seasonal farmworkers. All materials are available in English and Spanish on a central webpage. The link was distributed by OSU Extension agriculture educators directly to clients and made available on the Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 resources web page. It was widely circulated among food safety specialists from Oregon Department of Agriculture. Materials were distributed to farmers during as part of the state's massive PPE distribution—a joint project of ODA, Office of Emergency Management, Oregon National Guard and OSU Extension.

Building resilience in Lincoln County Latinx Communities: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how Latinx communities in Lincoln County lack access and levels of service to health resources and information and other community services compared to other more privileged populations. OSU Extension family and community health faculty and staff have built a collaborative team to assess and act on identified community needs. Team members include fellow on-campus faculty from OSU's College of Public Health and Human Sciences, Lincoln County Health and Human Services staff, student interns, and community members. Immediate goals of this collaborative effort are to address the impacts of COVID in the Latinx community in Lincoln County and current activities include listening sessions; community-produced videos, radio spots, and social media in Spanish and Mam; and a gap analysis. More impactful outcomes will come from longer-term work which will focus on addressing barriers to resilience, whether in daily life or in crisis moments, for our underserved communities.

Video lessons prove popular for northeast Oregon nutrition educators: OSU Extension's family and community health SNAP-Ed educators teach limited-income youth and families how to make tasty meals from healthy, inexpensive ingredients. COVID-19 prevented in-person teaching but the need for sound nutrition education continued. A trio of Extension educators in northeast Oregon turned to video, using recipes from Extension's Food Hero program and filming in their own kitchens. They've also kept community partnerships strong and active—joining Google Classroom, providing videos for teachers to use in remote classes, and producing video cooking workshops featuring in-season vegetables that accompany produce boxes distributed to families as part of the Veggie Rx program.

Keeping Oregonians staying active while staying at home: Walk With Ease and StrongWomen & StrongPeople are two popular OSU Extension family and community health programs that draw hundreds of participants each year across 20 counties. Both programs found ways to keep people moving when in-person classes were canceled. Walk With Ease offers a free, self-directed program that includes a workbook and weekly coaching emails. In Portland, OSU Extension offered a series of 18 Spanish-language classes of indoor Walk with Ease focused on low-literacy participants. StrongWomen & StrongPeople, a strength training program for middle-aged and older adults, continues through YouTube videos, Zoom classes and borrowable weights.

OSU Extension has partnered on "Healthy Kids on the Move" with Portland nonprofits, who have been providing families with weekly food boxes during the pandemic. The food boxes include items from an OSU Extension-developed physical activity curriculum, Food Hero flyers that match the foods, and small bottles for hand sanitizer. To complement this effort, Extension is currently making no-words videos to send to multilingual families to teach the physical activity games and distribute water bottles with ReThink Your Drink messaging through summer lunch programs across our region.

The Joint Ways & Means Committee Co-Chairs have proposed a 5% cut to these critical programs. This equates to a 10% cut for the fiscal year. As past reductions have proven, cuts take years to recover from and result in an inability to be innovative and nimble in addressing emerging issues, like adapting to a post-COVID world. Now is not a time to cut programs that have such a statewide significance and impact.

We recognize you have difficult decisions to make. We ask you to remember that maintaining the investment in OSU Extension will have a lasting impact on Oregon's people and communities.

Sincerely,

Adventist Health Tillamook
Association of Oregon Counties
Bob's Red Mill
Eastern Oregon CCO
InterCommunity Health Network CCO
Oregon Healthiest State
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Samaritan Health Services

cc. Senator Betsy Johnson, Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chairs Joint Ways & Means Committee

Senator Sara Gelser, Senator Mark Hass, Senator Arnie Roblan, Senator Chuck Thomsen, Representative Christine Drazan, Representative Mark Meek, Representative Mike Nearman

July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
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 Frederick and Representative McLain,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the importance of the Oregon State University Extension Service.

OSU Extension's small farms and local, regional, and community food systems programs have been working collaboratively with Oregon farmers, ranchers, food businesses, and a wide range of food system organizations for many years to build more resilience, health, and equity into the food system. Now, more than ever, we are seeing the importance of this movement due to the unprecedented disruptions caused by COVID-19. Together, we have responded quickly with collaborative outreach to address emerging needs while we continue the ongoing work.

Examples of our collective accomplishments are:

Supporting the long-term success of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) farmers and food justice organizations: BIPOC communities have been hardest hit by COVID-19. BIPOC-led food and farming organizations in Oregon have been leading the way to more resilient food systems that meet crucial food needs as well as the economic development needed for long-term recovery. These include the Black Food Sovereignty Coalition, Mudbone Grown, Adelante Mujeres and the Coalition for the Advancement of Latino Farmers, and "Growing Tribal Farms" on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. OSU Extension's small farms and food systems team collaborates with these organizations through applied research, education, technical assistance, and outreach.

Direct market producers and local food systems: Oregon is nationally known for our strong local food sector with many diversified, direct-market farmers and ranchers selling a variety of food and other agricultural crops. Extension has been supporting the growth and success of the farmer and food businesses in this sector for decades with research and education focused on production, marketing, and business management, all done in collaboration with many local and statewide organizations focused on this sector and these producers. When COVID-19 hit, the small farms team quickly created a website and outreach to assist farmers to adapt their farm and product management; offered webinars on mental health in a crisis; connected farms to guidance on quickly

pivoting their markets; connected them with PPE; began coordinating weekly calls with support organizations and agencies to coordinate farmer-focused COVID response; convened the “Oregon Food Hub Club” community of practice; and, through the Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network, provided a hotline for small meat producers and processors dealing with severe disruptions in national meat supply chains.

Community-based food systems: We continue our collaborative work with organizations who have been building strong, resilient, healthy, community-based food systems around the state—for household and community food security and local economic development and equity. The pandemic has laid bare the risks of not having resilient community food systems. The Oregon Community Food Systems Network consists of 56 statewide and community-based nonprofit organizations that represent hundreds of thousands of Oregonians, in rural and urban parts of the state. OSU Extension is a trusted partner for the network and, with Oregon Food Bank, serves as an institutional backbone organization, contributing research, education, outreach and engagement, and financial resources.

The Joint Ways & Means Committee Co-Chairs have proposed a 5% cut to the Statewide Public Services programs—OSU Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Forest Research Laboratory. This equates to a 10% cut for the fiscal year. These programs proved they are nimble in times of crisis. This is not the time to cut programs that provide direct support to our local food systems.

We recognize you have difficult decisions to make. We ask you to remember that maintaining the investment in OSU Extension will have a lasting impact on Oregon’s people, communities, and economy.

Sincerely,



Eddie Hill
Director
Black Food Sovereignty Coalition



Jamese Kwele
Director Food Equity
Ecotrust



Shantae Johnson
Farmer/Program Manager
Feed'em Freedom Farm



Shari Sirkin
Executive Director
Friends of Family Farmers



Stacy Kraker
President
Oregon Organic Coalition



Chris Schreiner
Executive Director
Oregon Tilth



Katy Giombolini
Statewide Networks Coordinator
Oregon Food Bank



Abigail Singer
Executive Director
Rogue Farm Corps



Kelly Crane
Executive Director
Oregon Farmers Markets Assoc



Holly Hutchason
Executive Director
Portland Area CSA Coalition



Megan Kemple
Co-Director
Oregon Climate & Agri. Network



Molly Notarianni
Executive Director
Farmers Market Fund



Lauren Sorg
Executive Director
Food Roots



Kristen Miller
Executive Director
Ten Rivers Food Web



Sarah Sullivan
Executive Director
Gorge Grown Food Network



Maribel De Le
Director of Microenterprise
Programs
Adelante Mujeres



Katrina Van Dis
Executive Director
High Desert Food & Farm
Alliance



July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
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 Frederick and Representative McLain,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the importance of the Oregon State University Extension Service youth programs, which include the 4-H Youth Development Program, Open Campus, and Juntos. These programs provide innovative positive youth development, research, and outreach.

Since March, these programs have responded, adapted, and innovated to continue servicing community and state needs. The examples are numerous.

OSU Extension created a youth education resources webpage for families and educators. This resource simplifies matters for families who are juggling new roles during COVID-19.

“4-H Central” is a new, weekly, educational magazine for youth and families. Developed by the 4-H team in Marion County when 4-H programming went remote due to COVID-19, it’s being used statewide and has been featured by National 4-H Council. The 15 bilingual issues have reached more than 353,000 people via social media.

When COVID-19 prevented youth from meeting in person with their clubs and adult mentors, 4-H educators adapted to online delivery. OSU Extension has actively engaged at the county level with 4-H families, volunteers, county elected officials, and community partners to provide for virtual or modified summer fair experiences that prioritize safety while offering opportunities for youth to evaluate their learning and showcase their accomplishments.

In Central Oregon, OSU Extension’s Open Campus helped transition college preparation to virtual delivery as part of “College Talk Tuesdays,” and, since March, has created 14 bilingual articles and 19 videos around college access, targeting both students and parents. Open Campus also worked to compile statewide resources in both English and Spanish, and acted as a conduit to help students and families seek out and access educational and community-based resources for education and staying safe and healthy during COVID-19.

The OSU Juntos Program has continued to support Latino families through virtual student clubs, family nights, and mentoring, which has kept students on track for graduation and college. Juntos, working with 100 schools in 36 Oregon communities, has had over 4,800 youth and family participants with a 92% post-secondary education access rate.

All of Extension’s youth-based programs, supporting over 70,000 youth statewide, offer learning-focused, culturally responsive programs and resources. Program offerings and engagement strategies are continually adapted based on community input, needs, and current issues.

The Joint Ways & Means Committee Co-Chairs have proposed a 5% cut to these critical programs. This equates to a 10% cut for the fiscal year. COVID-19 has dramatically shifted or halted youth education and programs. OSU Extension has found innovative formats to continue offering quality and impactful programming; now is not a time to cut programs that have such a powerful impact on our youth.

We recognize you have difficult decisions to make. We ask you to remember that maintaining the investment in OSU Extension will have a lasting impact on Oregon's young people and their communities.

Sincerely,

American Association of University Women – Oregon
Blue Mountain Community College
Chemeketa Community College
Columbia Gorge Community College
Comité Hispanico PTA de McMinnville
Corvallis High School
Dayton School District
Forest Grove School District
Oregon Association of County Fairs
Oregon Coast Community College
Oregon 4-H Ambassadors
Southwestern Oregon Community College
Tillamook Bay Community College
Tillamook School District
4-H Foundation

cc. Senator Betsy Johnson, Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chairs Joint Ways & Means Committee

From:
To:
Subject: Family, Community, Education
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:25:51 PM

FCE is an organization under the auspices of OSU. Having been a member for over 38 years, I have found it invaluable for the developed lessons and for the contacts that have helped us contribute to the community. The recent lesson on "What Do They Do When I'm Gone?" is a well-compiled lesson on making all the important choices before one dies. My grown children and I followed this after my heart attack and were happy to have such a complete course of action available.

Beyond that, all our study groups' volunteer activities render thousands of hours to the community in various ways. The Extension staff benefits the entire the community benefits by teaching better ways to garden and prepare food, and offer other invaluable information.

4-H is well-known for helping young people develop leadership skills. Extension works with many agencies to help them cooperate for good of all. While we understand that the state has been hard hit monetarily by the pandemic, money supplied to maintain Extension's activities is more than repaid by the results.

Sincerely,

Patty Bonney, President of Garden Home Study Group

From:
To:
Subject: FW: County Extension budget support
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:05:02 AM
Attachments:

With permission, forwarding this letter from an Advisory Council member to you.

Regards,
Leah

Leah R. Sundquist

County Liaison/Manager
OSU Extension Service|Clackamas County|503-655-8622
200 Warner Milne Rd, Oregon City, Oregon 97045
North Willamette Region



Extension Values: Community-based – Accountability – Credibility – Diversity – Partnerships – Responsiveness

From: Stillfields <stillfields@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Sen.LewFrederick@oregonlegislature.gov; Rep.SusanMcLain@oregonlegislature.gov
Subject: County Extension budget support

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

I understand that there is to be a reconsideration of the state budget due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The state will certainly be short of its usual funds, and I expect that many (most!) line items will have to be reduced. I'm writing in support of continued funding for the OSU Extension program.

During the tumultuous times the country was experiencing during the Civil War, Congress saw fit to establish land-grant universities in each state. This was followed in 1914 by the federal act to extend knowledge to community members through the establishment of county Extension. The need for science-based knowledge has not diminished and is certainly paramount today.

I am requesting the funding of Extension with your support, to keep Oregon citizens informed and educated.

(signed)
Elizabeth Howley, Oregon City
Horticulture Department chair/faculty emerita
Clackamas Community College

7/22/2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol H-178
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

My name is Harper Smith and I am a dedicated member of 4-H and the 4-H State Ambassador Team.

I wasn't always dedicated to 4-H because I hadn't seen the impact of the program on me, my peers and truly all who participate in the program. But now that I have grown in the program, 4-H has become an invaluable resource for me, especially now. 4-H has provided me with experiences that have not only changed my perspective on life but also has placed me in the position to create change for others. 4-H facilitates this so successfully due to the community and interconnected web of support available to all members, regardless of background, age and ability level. This is the support that the youth of Oregon 4-H now need.

I never realized how important this kind of interaction was until I had to go without it earlier this year as our clubs reconstructed meetings in a virtual setting. Our online video meetings are not just the highlight of my week, an activity to add to my resume, and a chance to interact with my peers. They are also a necessary reminder that I am not going through this incredibly hard time alone, and that I have people I can rely on whenever I need them.

The public views 4-H as a program that teaches youth how to haul a stubborn steer around a show ring or how to get the crust on the top of your pie to turn a perfect golden brown. On the surface, it is. What many people don't realize is that these experiences are the textbooks for life lessons for 4-H members. Our participation in 4-H teaches us how to be strong of character when we are met head on with failure, disappointment and unfairness. We learn that these experiences are mere steps in our journey to growing as individuals and that every instance is an opportunity to learn about ourselves.

Now, Oregon youth are all hit head-on with failure to achieve our expectations, disappointment for the opportunities we have lost, and the unfairness for what will be lost in the future, not to mention the sadness we feel with every announcement of the rising death toll. We need the web of support 4-H provides to act as our safety net under the tight rope we are all walking so we can have something valuable to be the highlight of our week, someone reliable we can talk to and listen to in return, and a place we can go outside of our household where we know we will be supported enough to rise to the occasion and come out of this difficult time as stronger individuals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Harper Smith
Deschutes
21164 King Arthur Ct.
Bend, OR
97702
503-989-6136
harperalex27@gmail.com

CC. Anita Azarenko, Vice Provost for Extension & Engagement; OSU Extension Director
(Interim)

Marilyn Lesmeister, OSU Extension 4-H Program Leader
(Interim)

Roberta Lundeberg, OSU Extension 4-H State Ambassador
Advisor

Anita.azarenko@oregonstate.edu
Marilyn.lesmeister@oregonstate.edu
Roberta.lundeberg@oregonstate.edu



**THREEMILE
CANYON
FARMS**

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

My Name is Greg Harris. I am the Director of Farm Operations at Threemile Canyon Farms in Boardman. We are a large vertically integrated irrigated farm and dairy operation. We produce Organic and Conventional Fruits and Vegetables, Forage for our livestock, Seed Crops and Milk in locations from Boardman to La Grande.

We rely very heavily on the OSU Extension Service to grow productive and sustainable crops. We utilize the plant diagnostic lab at the Hermiston Ag and Research Extension Center to determine if we have disease and need to treat or not treat in conjunction with consultation from our local Extension Plant Pathologist. We utilize the entomology lab also in Hermiston to identify insects in our fields so we can maximize the use of beneficial insects and limit the use of insecticides. On a weekly basis from May through September we are submitting samples to both labs and the results determine whether a pesticide treatment is necessary or not. Without having the expertise available to rapidly return the results of the tests, we would be forced to apply pesticides to protect our crops. Having these labs and the Extension Pathologist and Entomologist are critical pieces of a successful Integrated Pest Management Program. We also rely heavily on our Extension Agronomists, Soil Scientists and Horticulturalist for recommendations and research on everything from fertilizer usage to irrigation practices. In fact, as I am writing this letter on one computer screen, I am participating in a Zoom Meeting on Soil Health with scientists and industry members from across the NW, including OSU's Extension Plant Pathologist and Soil Scientists.

Normally this meeting would have been held in person, but with Covid 19, we are forced to have it via Zoom. My point of this comment is even with Covid 19, OSU Extension and Outreach is still on going. Agriculture is essential and we cannot stop producing. Likewise, OSU Extension is hard at work, with adjustments made for safety, still providing the lab results we rely on and participating in conversations and meetings important to Oregon's Agricultural Industry.

Over the last several years I have sat on numerous advisory and research committees at the national, regional, state, and local levels allowing me to work extensively with OSU Extension Service and almost every Experiment Station in the state. I have had the opportunity to advise, collaborate, fund, and be involved in the hiring and review process of several personnel. I have also worked with the other universities and the USDA across the United States and can attest that you will not find a finer agricultural research university or personnel in the U.S. Many of these personnel are located at Research and Extension centers. They are critical to the success of Oregon Agriculture as whole. From the farmers and foresters to the food and fiber processors. To the state agencies relying on experiment station research and the Extension Service to help set guidelines and policy that protect our natural resources. To the Master Gardeners program, and the youth of our communities through 4-H. As a former 4-H'er, a parent of a 4-H youth and as a member of a local school board, I have seen firsthand the difference these programs can make to our youth. For all these reasons, I respectfully request that you reconsider the 5% reduction in funding to the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service statewide public service programs.

Thank you,

Greg Harris

Threemile Canyon Farms
75906 Threemile Rd
Boardman, OR 97818
541-481-9274
gharris@rdoffutt.com

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-Chairs, Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

July 20, 2020

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

I am writing this letter regarding the rebalance plan to reduce statewides by 5%, which in turn would be a reduction for FY21. I am aware that you are about to vote upon this, and I am going to inform you of the personal impact OSU has made in our community and our life.

My husband and I retired to Josephine County ten years ago, we bought property and wanted to create a small farm on 7 acres. We did not have a farming background or experience as we were educators in our professional life. When we looked at this property, we saw the potential, then turned to OSU Extension for guidance and education. As my husband and I enrolled in the many classes OSU offers relating to farming, we were excited and relieved at the same time to have such incredible support locally. We took many classes relating to farming such as; growing vegetables, installing an orchard, growing berries, farming best practices, soil testing and amending, weed control, pasture management, raising small animals, raised beds, irrigation, vineyards, the list goes on, and even includes how to repair farm equipment. In addition, we both became Master Gardeners.

We built our farm, and as a result our daughter turned our produce into a product making small vegetarian savory tarts. OSU's Extension support helped her through the process of setting up her business and getting her product to market. Through OSU's support, we learned more about the financial aspect of operating a business from our farm. Also, through OSU's offering, I became a safe produce handler and our farm kitchen became licensed. Through OSU's guidance and a visit from an extension agent, we now successfully grow 4 acres of hay to sell to our local community owning livestock. I know OSU's guidance has helped many local farmers and gardeners as we are members of several organizations relating to both. I cannot speak highly enough about the quality of the education we received and the high level of support and follow up for their services.

We are confident farmers now and grow an abundance of produce and grass for livestock grazing. With OSU's support, we now give back to our community. With the help and services of OSU Extension, we successfully turned an abandoned piece of acreage into a robust, very productive farm. Before voting on this initiative, I urge every person to think about the branches of OSU that reach out to every community in Oregon and request continued funding support for OSU Extension and the Statewides. I credit OSU for helping citizens learn to grow and produce food for themselves and/or for a local market enriching the life of every local citizen.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Zaklan
Greyback Farm
3230 Woodland Park Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527

July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick

Representative Susan McLain

Co-chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Oregon State Capitol H-178

900 Court Street

Salem, OR 97301

To Whom It May Concern:

If we have learned anything during this time, it is that we have to make tough decisions that cannot please everyone. We have to adapt and make tough calls using the information presented to us. I am writing to you today to inform you of my opinion that now is not the time to cut funding from OSU Extension and Oregon 4-H Youth Development Programming. OSU Extension and 4-H Youth Development Programs have the greatest reach people throughout the state to provide much needed assistance and education. I know this because I have seen it myself at the local, county, and state level. In my county, 4-H has provided a virtual nature camp allowing elementary youth to learn more about science and art, explore the area around them, and connect with their peers. It allowed older youth to learn and practice leadership skills as well as connect with younger youth and their peers. For me, it gave me a much-needed purpose and reminder that there are people outside of my home I could help. At the county level, I've seen my extension office provide additional programming for youth, gather food for people in our county, reach out to people in the agriculture industry, and so much more. They have used their

reach to be a resource and friend to people during this difficult time. I truly believe some families would not have gotten through this time without 4-H's assistance. At the state level, the 4-H staff have been facilitating programming and assistance for adults and youth. I know personally that the weekly meetings I go to as a state ambassador have kept me going and motivated during this scary time. I used to just sit around not knowing what to do next, but with the support of 4-H and Extension I was able to pass my classes and become emotionally well again. The amazing thing is that this is just the tip of the iceberg. I know more youth and adults have had the same experience and have relied upon 4-H throughout this pandemic. I believe that 4-H will become even more important as school districts need help providing programming to low income and underserved parts of the community where families there don't have the resources to provide extra learning support and child care. 4-H can help fill these gaps because of the funding they receive. Now is not the time to reduce their funding. If that were to happen, the critical role they provide to the community will be gone and the people who rely upon them will suffer. Please consider this in your budget decision for the future of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jillian Layton

Polk County

398 Stadium Dr. S. Monmouth, OR 97361

9713048009

Jillian.r.layton@gmail.com

July 21, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-Chairs
Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

My name is Deanna Christiansen, I am the Elementary School Librarian and After school Program Coordinator at Sherman County School in Moro, Oregon. We are a small rural agricultural community with one school serving all our county youth; Preschool through 12th grade on one campus. I have been managing our counties after school program for more than 10 years. What started as a grant funded project, has turned out to be a long standing program that provides services to our youth population that they may otherwise not be able to afford or access due to our location. Students have been able to participate in a wide variety of activities; anything from tae kwon do, wrestling, additional physical education, robotics, art, crafts, cheer, dance, science, and additional tutoring skills. Early on in my involvement with the after school program I reached out to community organizations knowing that grant funds would only take the program so far. Right away Cindy Brown and the staff at the Sherman County Extension jumped right on board. We were able to provide access to 4-H activities to our enrolled students. Volunteers could host the 4-H meets at the school, during the after school program times ensuring that more students could participate. It also served to allow more volunteers to be creative with 4-H club ideas. Together we reached a larger group of students. When the grant funds ended, we were even able to continue a high level of robotics offerings through the 4-H program. Cindy Brown helped make even more offerings available to students and their families by bringing in cooking, life skills, and even some theater arts. I know that without

the support of our local extension services, and the staff there, I would not have been able to continue providing the highest level of services to our small population of students as I have with the additional support and collaboration.

I know that small areas are often not seen as having the same or even similar issues as larger, more populated areas of our state. However, I am honored to know that this collaboration has provided valuable support to students, their families, and in turn these students have grown to become contributing members of our community. The cooking group alone has offered food and meal comforts to students in need. They have learned to create meals from things in their homes, valuable life skills that they will carry with them. Some of our students have openly shared about food concerns while cooking and sampling foods with peers. I have had students that I know may only get one meal at home a day, and maybe even then it was a peanut butter sandwich. The comfort that signing them up for a cooking group gives me is something immeasurable. These are the types of programs that I fear if lost, will result in a population of lost youth. When we stop supporting and providing youth and family services we lose a valuable piece of our community.

Throughout our current Covid - 19 pandemic I have seen our local extension continue to reach out to our community. They provide valuable, trustworthy information that our community knows is honest. They have provided seeds for gardens, reliable food preservation ideas and support, meal ideas, planning ideas, and community outreach. It is evident that these programs and the people that work with them have a place of respect within our community. I personally cannot even begin to describe the impact 4-H, extension and the services/staff have had on me through the years. Now, with my own children and the children of the community I serve, I value the support even more.

I look forward to continuing to have a strong partnership with my local extension office, it's hard working staff, and the community that we can support together.

Sincerely,

Deanna D. Christiansen

dchristiansen@sherman.k12.or.us



American Forest Foundation



Tualatin Soil and Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation is for everyone.

Ecotrust



July 10, 2020

Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
H-178 State Capitol

RE: Oregon State University Extension Service Fire Resiliency Funding

Dear Senators Johnson and Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield:

Our organizations request the funding dedicated to Oregon State University Extension Service to develop a statewide fire resiliency program be maintained. The threat of wildland fire continues to grow throughout Oregon. Between 2014 and 2018, wildfire burned over four million acres. These devastating wildfires are scarring Oregon's landscapes and jeopardizing the health, safety, and vitality of people, communities, and businesses. Past management practices along with more human-caused wildfire and changes in climate, which have resulted in more severe weather, are causing wildfires to burn earlier and last later; burn hotter, more frequent, and over greater extents.

Because of this, the urgency for fire prevention, mitigation, and education is more critical than ever before. This is evident as we navigate the challenges of limited wildfire response due to the COVID-19 pandemic and reduced budgets. The Extension Fire Resiliency Program is part of Oregon's fire solution. The program is the conduit between agencies, organizations, and entities, public and private, and contributes to solutions with a shared purpose. The program team of six county-based Extension fire specialists and an Oregon State University campus-based State fire specialist and program manager is the ideal infrastructure to facilitate partnerships and get landscape-scale, cross-boundary projects implemented on the ground across *all* Oregon landscapes. They are a non-biased, science-based source of education and outreach that is built from an over 100-year foundation of the Land Grant University system. They are embedded in all communities and work locally to identify the exact needs of Oregonians. Defunding or reducing the Oregon State University's Extension Resiliency Fire Program would have huge impacts on our landscapes and communities. Spending \$1M/year to fund pro-action will be a great investment to fight continuing to spend millions on reaction to wildfire.

As an example, over the last year, advances in the Extension Fire Resiliency Program have assisted landscape-scale progress in counties such as Lake and Klamath. With the program as the boundary spanner between public and private entities, nearly 65,000 acres have already been treated to lessen fire risk by reducing fuels and improving forest health and projects are underway to greatly increase the acres. These landscape-scale, cross-boundary projects provide

economic benefits to the local communities, including workforce development. The program addresses the fire problem by focusing efforts on defensible space treatments and fire education and outreach, including emphasis on creating smoke-ready communities. Continued strong collaborative support between federal, state and private entities will be the difference in how Oregon's forests respond to wildfire.

The fire problem in Oregon is clear. Our landscapes are over stressed due to high tree densities, drought, invasive grasses, and insect and disease outbreaks. Our communities are over stressed from economic and social impacts from fire and smoke. In 2018, Oregon wildfire costs hit record highs of \$514 million with over 800,000 acres burned across the State. Wildfire seasons like the one in 2018 cost the state of Oregon millions of dollars each year; and billions across the Nation.

We recognize the budget situation the State of Oregon is facing. However, the investments made now in preventative and land management efforts will reduce the state's future wildland fire risk in the most cost-effective manner possible. Please continue to support the OSU Extension Fire Resiliency Program funding and the positive outcomes it will facilitate.

Sincerely,

Jim James, Executive Director
Oregon Small Woodlands Association

Amanda Rau, Chair
Oregon Prescribed Fire Council

Tom Fry, Western Director
American Forest Foundation

Jeremy Barnicle, Executive Director
Ecotrust

Bill Lehman, Executive Director
Klamath Watershed Partnership

Lacey Townsend, Executive Director
Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

Nick Johnson, Executive Director
Lake County Resources Initiative

Nils D Christoffersen, Executive Director
Wallowa Resources

Anne C. Maloney, Secretary
Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership

Jim James, Administrator
Oregon Tree Farm System

Kendal Martel, PNW Region Coordinator
Forest Stewards Guild

Alison Green, Coordinator
Oregon: Living with Fire

Dylan Kruse, Director of Government
Affairs & Program Strategy
Sustainable Northwest

Pete Caligiuri, Oregon Forest Program Lead
The Nature Conservancy



2525 SE 3rd Street | Corvallis, OR 97333 | www.tilth.org | PH 503.378.0690 | FX 541.753.4924 | organic@tilth.org

July 15, 2020

Senator Betsy Johnson, Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward and Representative Dan Rayfield
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways & Means Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon State University Extension Organic Agriculture Support

Dear Senator Johnson, Senator Steiner Hayward, and Representative Rayfield:

Our world has changed in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Legislators and leaders across the state are facing great uncertainty as we chart a course that ensures care, safety and resilience for Oregon and its communities.

During the 2019 legislative session, legislators provided funding for two positions with the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service focused on organic agriculture. ***We're writing to provide an update on the positions, emphasize their essential value to Oregon agriculture and highlight the necessity of protecting the funding commitment for these positions.***

Oregon Tilth is a leading nonprofit certifier, educator & advocate for organic agriculture since 1974. The organization is accredited by the USDA to offer organic certification services in accordance with the USDA National Organic Program. Our certification program currently serves over 2400 clients throughout the U.S. and Latin America. We certify a diverse mix of crops, livestock and processed products across the organic supply chain. Our clients' organic sales represent nearly \$6.8 billion of the organic market. We certify over 1100 farm operations, with diverse geography and scales of production. We are the largest organic certifier in Oregon.

Oregon Tilth has maintained a formal partnership with OSU since 2009. We have invested over \$225K in OSU to help protect faculty positions in difficult fiscal years by allowing OSU to leverage matched dollars in this unique public-private partnership. Working closely with the OSU's Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems, we help inform the research and education agenda to meet the unique needs of the organic sector. In 2017, this [partnership helped establish a nascent Organic Extension Program at OSU](#). A 0.4 FTE pilot position began building a foundation of programming and support for expanding the number of faculty specializing in organic agriculture at OSU, in part leading to legislative funding for two positions last year.

With funding for the two positions secured, a broad organic industry stakeholder group identified priority production areas in need of support. We identified the top priority as organic vegetable production, and



the number two priority as organic forages and pastures to support Oregon’s well-established organic livestock sector. The funding for the positions became available in January 2020 and OSU moved quickly to fill the organic vegetable production position by late January. OSU was prepared to begin the hiring process for the second position in March when the COVID-19 economic downturn forced OSU to freeze the position. We are now deeply concerned that the positions may be permanently lost due to budget cuts. *This risk represents a significant lost opportunity in economic recovery for Oregon agriculture.*

Consumers are eating more organic food and using more organic products than ever before, according to the 2020 Organic Industry Survey released last month by the Organic Trade Association. The U.S. organic sector posted another strong year in 2019, with organic sales in the food and non-food markets totaling a record \$55.1 billion, up a solid 5 percent from the previous year.

U.S. Organic Food vs. Total Food Sales, Growth & Penetration, 2010–2019

CATEGORY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Organic Food	22,961	25,148	27,965	31,378	35,099	39,006	42,507	45,209	47,862	50,065
Growth (%)	8.0%	9.5%	11.2%	12.2%	11.9%	11.1%	9.0%	6.4%	5.9%	4.6%
Total Food	677,354	713,985	740,450	760,486	787,575	807,998	812,907	822,160	840,972	860,583
Growth (%)	1.2%	5.4%	3.7%	2.7%	3.6%	2.6%	0.6%	1.1%	2.3%	2.3%
Organic (as % Total)	3.4%	3.5%	3.8%	4.1%	4.5%	4.8%	5.2%	5.5%	5.7%	5.8%

Source: Organic Trade Association's 2020 Organic Industry Survey conducted 2/7/2020–3/27/2020 (\$mil., consumer sales).

Oregon currently ranks 5th nationally in certified organic acreage and 8th in the number of certified farms. With Oregon’s ability to produce a wide variety of crops, there is now considerable momentum for Oregon to be a leader in a number of organic specialty crops. *The OSU positions specializing in organic crop production will assist Oregon farmers in accessing the \$50 billion national market for organic products.*

Our 2017 research report published with Oregon State University, [Breaking New Ground: Farmer Perspectives on Organic Transition](#), surveyed 1800 farmers across the U.S. who had pursued, successfully and unsuccessfully to transition to organic. With 600+ respondents, our findings showed that farmers need technical support for organic transition and production, plus applied research to solve production, market, and policy barriers.

Upon filling the first organic position in January, considerable progress has been made. The overall organic program is regularly advised by a committee consisting of organic industry organizations. Through a needs assessment of organic vegetable producers and processors supported by the organic industry, four priority areas were identified for outreach and applied research: 1. Cover crops, 2. Organic nutrient management, 3. Organic pest management, 4. Winter vegetable production. Work has begun to address these priority areas. For example, OSU has updated tools for organic nutrient management, and degree day models for organic



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pest management. A robust research program is active with grant supported projects investigating cover crops, winter vegetable production, and pest management in brassicas. An OSU Organic Agriculture Working Group led by the organic vegetable position is catalyzing organic agriculture related work across Oregon in multiple disciplines from plant breeding to soil health.

Farmers need outreach and technical expertise to put the scientific findings into practice. Organic Extension brings innovation from applied research into the field via high contact with farmers. This increases organic farmers' access to technical assistance, resources, expertise and ultimately, new market opportunities and price premiums.

We recognize Oregon is facing a challenging budget situation. ***And we strongly support these organic extension positions as they represent a strategic investment that will assist Oregon in its economic recovery during and after COVID-19 crisis.*** We urge you to continue permanent funding for both positions.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Chris Schreiner
Executive Director

Sarah Brown
Education and Advocacy Director



Senator Betsy Johnson
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Representative Dan Rayfield
Co-Chairs
Joint Ways & Means Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon State University Water Quantity and Quality Funding

Dear Senator Johnson, Senator Steiner Hayward, and Representative Rayfield,

In 2019, the Oregon Legislature made an investment in clean and stable water supplies for future Oregonians and ecosystems. We request that you maintain the allocation of \$2 million to Oregon State University's Agriculture Experiment Station and \$400,000 to the Extension Service for water quality and quantity research and outreach.

The focus of the investment is to optimize ground- and surface-water resources for agricultural production, drinking water quality, and ecosystem health. Over the last three decades, both water quantity and quality have declined prompting declarations of Critical Groundwater Areas (CGA) and a Groundwater Management Area (GWMA), respectively, in the Umatilla Basin, Northern Malheur County and the Southern Willamette Valley. Similarly, many coastal basins and the North Klamath River and Southern Deschutes basins have both surface water and groundwater contamination that impact agricultural producers, food processing producers, seafood producers, and urban and rural domestic water users. The decline in water quantity and quality are attributed to both agricultural and domestic uses in these basins. The problems and solutions for these areas have direct application for many other agricultural regions of the State.

Maintaining the 2019 investment will allow the OSU College of Agriculture to match the funding with existing resources to create a Center of Excellence and Expertise (COEE) dedicated to addressing systemic challenges to water quality and water supply for food production and ecosystem health in Oregon. Focused research projects would include:

- Establish baseline conditions related to ecosystem health and then incorporating the information to improve agricultural practices.
- Determine the sources, magnitude, and transport of nitrate in groundwater agricultural lands and develop a calibrated transport model capable of describing the fate of nitrate from land application to groundwater and surface waters.
- Conserve available water and reduce nitrate leaching from agricultural production and related activities with the aim of reducing and then maintaining

nitrate concentrations in groundwater for improvement of human and ecosystem health.

- Apply models to integrate water quantity and quality aspects of crop production to predict runoff, irrigation return flows, crop yield, and nutrient leaching under different fertilizer, irrigation, and other practices.
- Assess economic feasibility of existing and new Best Stewardship Practices (BSPs).

The work of COEE will feed directly into OSU's land grant mission of extension and outreach. The Extension Service will disseminate information to stakeholders and landowners regarding implement BSPs that conserve water, reduce nitrate contamination, and improve instream flows. Additionally, the COEE's work will provide important data and information to policy makers working to address water quality and quantity issues.

We recognize you have difficult decisions to make. We only ask that you remember maintaining the water quality and quantity investment will have a lasting impact on Oregon's people, communities and ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Cooper
Vice President of Public Policy
Oregon Farm Bureau
maryanne@oregonfb.org

Morgan Gratz-Weiser
Legislative Director
Oregon Environmental Council
morgang@oeonline.org

cc. Senator Lew Frederick & Representative Susan McLain
Co-Chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 5:28:18 PM

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain, members of the committee,

My name is Anne Gross, and I am an SEIU 503 member. I am a Nutrition Education Program Assistant with Extension Services, Josephine County, at Oregon State University. I love the work I do, and I have done this work for 7 years because of the families I interact with on a daily basis.

Prior to the Covid shutdown I spent my day interacting with students, families and older adults teaching them the importance of healthy eating and physical activity to their overall quality of life. The population I serve is among the most vulnerable and needy of my community, since they qualify for SNAP services. More than ever we are seeing families struggle with putting food on the dinner table. My job is to teach these families how to stretch their SNAP dollars and still provide quality, nutritional, meals for themselves and their families.

If my position were to see budgetary cuts my community would see an increase in the poverty and obesity rate. Our already taxed health care systems would see influxes in disease and chronic conditions. This would be detrimental to my already struggling impoverished community.

Now more than ever Oregon is in need of the services that Extension provides to each of our unique communities. We are helping families feed their children through community garden programs. We are teaching parents how to plan, shop and save at the grocery store and providing exercise programs to our older adult populations to keep them social and engaged.

The work that my colleagues and I do is important to the people we serve, and it's a critical part of Oregon's social safety net. I am asking you to do everything you can to ensure that we are able to continue to provide these services, and not make any further cuts that increase our workloads and hurt our communities.

Thank you for your time, and for your commitment to this issue.

Anne Gross
Nutrition Education Program Assistant
Grants Pass

7/21/20

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capital H-178
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

My name is Shelzza Deaton and I am formally writing to you today to ask you to not cut funding to Oregon 4-H. Before I begin, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I live in a very small town called Monroe which sits between Corvallis and Junction City. I am going into my sophomore year at Monroe High School. Because of how small my school is, I don't have that many options for after-school activities and clubs. Some schools have FFA and home economics classes, but in my rural community, we do not have the funding for all of the extras.

4-H has given me the chance to raise livestock, participate in shooting sports, expand my home economic skills, and show my dog. I have been in 4-H for 6 years, and I have 3 more left to go. These 6 years have been some of the best of my life!

I understand that these are very difficult times and hard decisions must be made. However, I believe that this is not the time to cut the 4-H budget. If our budget is reduced there will be less support for the in-school 4-H programs, the county programs, and our state program.

You might think that 4-H is just about the county and state fair, and yes, those are important, but 4-H is much more than that. One of my favorite parts of 4-H is getting to meet new people from all over the state. It has helped me build bridges and meet some of my friends and mentors. Another one of my favorite parts of 4-H is leadership. I am a 4-H Junior Leader, a County Ambassador in Benton County, and an Oregon 4-H State Ambassador. One of my favorite leadership projects that I have done is planning and running a statewide archery tournament with my friend Addison. Together we created a safe, fun, and competitive place for archers to shoot in two outdoor trails. Our county 4-H faculty helped us to get everything together and ready.

Our 4-H program is also meeting the needs of communities and individuals by providing brain-stimulating activities through hands-on projects. 4-H youth are able to participate in virtually any project, as long as there is a leader. There are options for STEM projects, clothing and textile projects, livestock projects, dog and other small animal projects, and shooting sport projects as well as many more.

As a 4-H youth I also understand how to budget, because budgeting is one of the things I learn while doing records for my projects. I understand that times are hard and difficult decisions have to be made. I hope you will recognize how valuable 4-H is for bridging the gaps in what schools can provide. 4-H helps meet the needs of my community and I believe that this is not the time to give our program a budget cut.

Sincerely,

Shelzza Deaton
Benton County
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Monroe, OR 97456
541-224-2371
Shelzza.deaton@gmail.com

CC. Anita Azarenko, Vice Provost for Extension & Engagement; OSU Extension
Director (Interim)
Marilyn Lesmeister, OSU Extension 4-H Program Leader (Interim)
Roberta Lundeberg, OSU Extension 4-H State Ambassador Advisor
Anita.azarenko@oregonstate.edu
Marilyn.lesmeister@oregonstate.edu
Robera.lundeberg@oregonstate.edu

July 21, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today in support of the Oregon State University Extension programs offered throughout Crook County, Central Oregon Region and the entire state of Oregon. All Extension programs are so very beneficial to our community members, landowners and youth throughout the state.

The OSU Crook County Extension Service has been in Crook County since 1914 providing the community with various research based, informal educational programs. These programs are offered in many different formats; from tours to workshops to in person "farm visits" as well as publications and brochures that you can get from the office. There is a wealth of information and knowledge at every community member's fingertips at the Extension office.

The 4-H Program is very valuable to our young people in our communities. This program teaches them responsibility and leadership for our future generation of agricultural related businesses. The knowledge and understanding that the youth today are being taught through the 4-H program will sustain the future of agriculture. Without agriculture in our future, we will not have the knowledge and understanding of producing what we need to live: food and water.

I have personally benefited from programs throughout my many years here in Crook County. I am a cattle producer and have relied upon the staff and faculty at the Extension Service for assistance with issues of calving, feeding, and all that comes with owning cattle. With that being said, I have also consulted with the Extension Service regarding hay production and irrigation issues. There has always been someone to direct me with what to plant and when to plant the many different varieties of grasses or alfalfas. I have also received help with rehabilitating springs and getting water to different parts of large pastures for better forage utilization.

During this pandemic that we are all currently experiencing, Crook County Extension Service continued to be available and run programs even though the door was closed to the public. The 4-H Program is thriving with virtual programming, contests and planning for a modified fair. The office staff was still taking calls remotely and helping people with gardening questions, forage questions, livestock questions, etc. Now that they are open to the public with modifications, they are busy as ever with clients coming in for a variety of questions in all areas. During this hard time, the office proceeded on and tried to make it "business as usual".

I feel that it is very important that you continue to fund the entire OSU Extension Service for the sake of our future generations to come. Our community members, landowners, youth need Extension in order to grow and thrive in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Jerry Brummer

Co-chairs Senator Lew Frederick, Representative Susan McLain and members of the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the TallWood Design Institute (TDI). We are grateful for the support of this committee and the State Legislature and look forward to continuing the work that your funding has made possible. As you know, TDI is a unique industry-driven partnership between:

- College of Forestry, Oregon State University
- College of Design, University of Oregon
- College of Engineering, Oregon State University

TDI Mission

To drive economic development in Oregon's wood products manufacturing sector and facilitate increased use of Oregon's sustainable wood products in the design and building industries. We do this through applied research, technical prototyping and testing, and by providing professional education and extension services to industry audiences.

How Funds are Used

TDI was established in 2015. State funds support core operating costs associated with equipping and operating testing and research facilities as well as industry training programs that are part of a larger strategic economic development effort to create manufacturing jobs in timber-dependent rural communities. In addition, these funds are required as matching dollars that leverage approximately \$4M per biennial budget cycle from the federal government and other external sources.

Leveraging State Support

Major External Research Grants: \$8 million

USDA

Agricultural Research Service: \$4.75 million
Wood Innovation Grants: \$2.00 million

Economic Development Administration

I6 Challenge: \$450,000

Business Oregon

Oregon Innovation Council: \$700,000

OR Counties, Cities, UO Design Studios

\$150,000

OSU and UO Research and Testing Facility Investments:

OSU's A.A. "Red" Emerson Advanced Wood Products Laboratory

- Opened Summer 2019; \$12 million private and public funds investment by OSU
- Capabilities include structural testing, digital fabrication and manufacturing

UO's Oregon Acoustic Research Laboratory

- Scheduled opening - December 2021; \$8 million commitment by UO
- Will be the only university facility in North America with capability for testing mass timber floor/ceiling assemblies, needed for further building applications to meet code requirements

These facilities supplement existing ones that have allowed more than 40 industry-focused R&D projects on structural and seismic resilience of wood buildings, thermal comfort, energy

efficiency, acoustic and fire performance, indoor air quality and advanced weatherization, lifecycle analysis and design demonstration projects. Faculty have been hired at both institutions to add new expertise in structural fire, mass timber architecture and engineering. These investments are all part of supporting the rural economic development strategy to grow Oregon's mass timber manufacturing capacity.

Economic Development and Technical Assistance Highlights

Mass Plywood Panel Manufacturing Facility

- \$40 million investment by Freres Lumber Company in Lyons, OR, in unique new mass timber product made possible by product development and testing by TDI

Swinerton Construction

- TDI has provided R&D support to Swinerton Construction, who have established a 32-person mass timber construction office in Portland and are preparing to add CNC fabrication capacity to their warehouse facility in north Portland.

Sauter Timber

- Working with Clackamas County, TDI has helped encourage Sauter Timber to locate a new CNC fabrication plant in Estacada which broke ground in 2020.

Oregon Mass Timber Industry Development Summit

- Sponsored by TDI and Business Oregon, 183 attendees (January 15, 2019)

Critical Mass Timber Group

- Over 400 industry professionals are part of our peer-to-peer learning hub in Portland (currently virtual!), meeting monthly to learn best-practices in design, manufacturing and construction

Industry-Driven Research Agenda

- Representatives from the manufacturing, architecture, engineering, and construction sectors review and evaluate our research proposals for relevance to industry needs
- TDI is forming a Consortium of industry partners to sponsor additional research and testing projects through funded memberships and to further drive demand and building code innovation
- 5,000+ Oregon stakeholders have benefited from TDI outreach and extension activities.

Education

- TDI is addressing current Oregon labor market skills gaps by rolling out a certificate program in mass timber manufacturing and construction, in partnership with community colleges, unions and others.
- New option in advanced mass timber design launched within UO's MS in Architecture program

TallWood Design Institute Leadership

TDI has led the way for Oregon to become the epicenter of mass timber development in the United States, with DR Johnson in Riddle, OR as the first US certified manufacturer of cross-laminated-timber in 2015, with Freres Lumber as the only manufacturer of Mass Plywood Panels, certified in 2018, and with Portland becoming home to the first International Mass Timber Conference the following year, an annual event which now attracts 2,000 participants from 80 countries. Oregon is now home to more than 50 mass timber buildings and a growing community of architects, engineers and contractors whose unique experience with mass timber is leading to business around the country. However, Oregon is facing competition from new manufacturing facilities in Washington, Alabama and Canada, as well as growing expertise in the U.S. Your continued support of TDI is vital if Oregon is going to maintain first strike advantage in this rapidly growing mass timber sector.



July 20, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
And members of the Education Committee of the
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Lew Frederick and Susan McLain,

We are writing to express our support for maintaining the current level of funding to the TallWood Design Institute. This funding has been critical to the important work the Institute has been doing to support and grow Oregon’s mass timber design and manufacturing industries.

Launched in 2015, the Institute brings together a unique collaboration between leading architecture, wood science, and engineering programs at both Oregon State University and University of Oregon to focus on development of innovative wood products and building components produced in Oregon. We can attest to the fact that the Institute actively partners with Oregon building design professionals, contractors, and wood products manufacturers to drive innovation and provide testing for engineered wood materials, and is addressing workforce skills gaps in manufacturing, design and engineering, all of which is vital for Oregon’s competitiveness in rapidly-growing domestic and global markets for mass timber products and buildings.

As architects, engineers, construction firms, wood products businesses, and civic and nonprofit organizations we share a collective interest in working to ensure that Oregon maintains its leadership in innovative and sustainable building design and the manufacture of engineered

wood products. Since 2015, the TallWood Design Institute has leveraged state funding to bring an additional \$8M in federal and private research funds to the state. The Institute has initiated more than 50 research and testing projects that are creating new market opportunities and eliminating barriers to the manufacture and application of wood products in Oregon and in the rest of the United States. Critically at this point in time, the Institute's work is supporting an increasing number of high-value manufacturing jobs in our rural communities, new project opportunities for our design professionals, and the sustainable management of healthy forests through the use of small diameter trees and low-value wood species.

Thanks to the state support of TDI and a \$12M investment by the OSU College of Forestry, the brand-new Emmerson Advanced Wood Products Lab opened in 2019 to provide world-class R&D facilities for our timber sector. Combined with an \$8M commitment by the University of Oregon for a timber acoustic testing facility, this will give the Institute unparalleled capabilities to further advance the timber sector, a critical strategic opportunity for our state. Please support the funding the Legislature allocated for TDI in its 2019-21 budget.

Sincerely,

William P. Silva, Director of Pre-Construction
Swinerton Builders

Christine Lundberg, Mayor
City of Springfield, Oregon

Tyler Freres, Vice President of Sales
Freres Lumber

Jim Bernard, Chair
**On behalf of the Clackamas County
Board of Commissioners, Oregon**

Amy Vohs, AIA, President
American Institute of Architects Oregon

Stefee Knudsen, Principal
Matt Sugarbaker, Principal
Scott Barton-Smith, Associate Principal
Hacker

Ben Kaiser, Owner and Principal
Kaiser Group + Path Architecture

Valerie Johnson, Chief Executive
DR Johnson Wood Innovations

Brad Nile, Project Manager
Andersen Construction Co., Inc.

Lianne Thompson
Clatsop County Commissioner, District 5

Thomas Robinson, Founder & Principal
Lever Architecture

Lisa Petterson, AIA, Principal
SRG Partnership, Inc.

Eric McDonnell, PE, Principal
Holmes Structures

- 21 July 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Oregon State Capitol
H-178 900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Frederick and Ms. McLain,

My name is Tully, and I hope to persuade you to not cut funding to OSU Extension and 4-H in these trying times. I understand why it might seem a tempting choice. After all it is not needed to keep water in the pipes or hospitals running. But I think you will find that the money you spend on Extension is very much worth it to the youth and communities it helps. I hope my perspective as a 4-H youth will help convince you of this.

One of 4-H's strengths is growing community mindedness in its youth, as well as helping those youth find each other. Even in these somewhat apocalyptic times, 4-H continues to do this. To use a somewhat personal example, I am currently organizing a "letters to seniors" program with some other 4-H youth. I cannot speak to the success of this project as we have just sent out the first letters, but even the attempt would not have been possible without 4-H. I met the youth I am doing this with last February at a 4-H leadership camp, gained advice from Extension staff on how to carry out my idea, and used 4-H spaces (virtual ones at the moment) to hold our planning meetings.

4-H has continued to help keep its youth connected and help us grow into better versions of ourselves. We may no longer be able to gather together in person, but we can still work on public speaking, organization, and leadership. We are still holding meetings, if virtual ones, still working to serve the community as a club, still having lively discussions. These meetings can be particularly important for those in more isolated places.

I know you are having to make some very tough decisions in these difficult times, and I would like to thank you for working hard to make the best ones that can be made. I dearly hope that you will see that OSU Extension is something very much worth preserving.

Sincerely,

M. Tully Daire

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

As I sit in my kitchen canning bone broth from the grass fed beef raised locally I realize how important our local extension office is to our community. We have agents who know the local people and the county environment to be able to assist the many branches of extension.

I have been a Master Food Preserver for 12 years. When the pandemic hit I realized then how important our workshops had been teaching people food preserving techniques as well as other types of food prep. In January we taught a bread making class including making sour dough. Some may think that making bread would be nice but not essential. However bread was one of the shortages along with yeast. Many people were in food lines in hopes of getting enough food for their families. Many of our workshops deal with cooking from scratch. I have been able to help people locally as well as on the internet prepare foods for their families.

I know our extension agent has answered many gardening questions and the Master Gardeners have been busy helping our local people with their gardens. Next people will need info on preserving their harvest. Local agents know there community and can assist people to be able to get the supplies they need.

I have 4 grandchildren that were able to auction their 4-H and FFA animals due to our hard workers determined agents. My oldest granddaughter is the president of her 4-H club. She is a senior and will be heading to college with the help of the 4-H scholarship. She has been in 4-H ten years and credits the program for helping her become a strong leader and volunteer.

When I listen to what people are wanting one of the main things is local help and education. The extension office is built on just that. Helping educate people from all walks of life in their livelihoods, health and education. In these times it is most important to strengthen this community based organization.

Peggy Prickett (Myrtle Point)



July 23, 2020

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick & Representative McLain and members of the committee,

My name is Tony Lapiz, I am a political and policy strategist for SEIU Local 503, focusing on higher education policy and budgets. SEIU Local 503 represents more than 4,500 classified workers in higher education across all seven public universities. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on the Way and Means Co-Chairs' proposed budget reductions of the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs – the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory. Known as “The OSU Statewides,” these programs provide critical service to our communities through research, education, and community-based problem solving.

Community Impact

Since March these programs have responded, adapted and innovated to continue servicing community and state needs; the examples are numerous. The workers at the Extension office in Wasco County helped deliver a successful Oregon cherry harvest and have kept migrant farmworkers and their families healthy by coordinating information from county health, labor departments and other community partners.

Coronavirus education and outreach by OSU Extension has included assistance with contact tracing, webinars, information packets, and signage in English and Spanish about masks, social distancing, and proper use of the field washing stations. OSU Extension also provides community based support for SNAP recipients across the state but especially in rural counties where there are limited resources. Without the community support provided by OSU Extension, we risk vulnerable communities not having access to the critical services they provide.

The Agricultural Experiment Stations across the state have recognized that research is essential to the continuity of the state's food production line. A pause could result in a year's worth of lost work due to its seasonal nature. The Agricultural Experiment Stations quickly prioritized policies and procedures to protect researchers while still allowing them to continue critical work. Without the Agriculture Experiment Station, we risk losing valuable research that could play a critical role in providing the agriculture innovation we will need to drive our economy and provide food for our communities.

**SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
LOCAL 503**

PO Box 12159
Salem, OR 97309-1259

1730 Commercial St. SE
Salem, OR 97302

6401 SE Foster Rd.
Portland, OR 97206

1.844.503.SEIU (7348)
www.seiu503.org



Scientists and foresters with the Forest Research Laboratory have continued research in areas like forest management and fire resilience in newly adapted and remote formats as the risk of wildfire does not stop with the pandemic. The work allows land managers to make informed decisions and prioritize the health and safety of Oregonians. Without the Forest Research Laboratory, we risk delaying the research our state relies on to combat forest fires that are continuously getting worse because of climate change.

Uncertainty of the Community Impact

The Co-Chairs have proposed a “5% cut” to these critical programs; however, in application, this would result in a 10% cut because we are midway through a biennium. As past budget reductions have proven, cuts take years to recover from and result in an inability to be innovative and nimble in addressing emerging issues, like adapting to the Covid-19 pandemic and assisting getting our state through the recovery. We view these services in the same light of other educational programs

We do not currently have a clear sense on the impact this will have on our members or the services they provide. These program areas will have to manage their programs to these new funding levels. Likely universities will have to adjust to these funding levels through a combination of program changes and staffing layoffs. Because we do not know exactly where these reductions will be made, it is not currently possible to understand the impacts they will have on workers and the services they provide to our communities, but we fear they will be first in line for reductions.

We acknowledge the unique state of Oregon’s economy and recognize the difficult decisions you will have to make in the weeks and months ahead. As a critical part of OSU’s Land Grant mission to serve all corners of the state, we ask that the OSU Statewides do not take a disproportionate cut compared to other higher education accounts during the 2020 Special Session budget reconciliation.

Sincerely,

Tony Lapiz, MPH
Policy and Political Strategist
SEIU Local 505, OPEU

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Senator Frederick, Representative McLain and members of the committee, my name is Angi Bailey. My husband and I operate a small nursery in Multnomah County, and I serve as 1st VP of Oregon Farm Bureau.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the importance of state funding to Oregon State University's Agricultural Experiment Stations.

Through its statewide presence in 14 regional research and extension centers, the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station at OSU provides essential research and application of that research to assure the success of the state's \$50 billion agriculture and food system. With experts and programs across the broad spectrum of Oregon's 220 commodities and our diverse natural resources, they meet the needs of both industry and consumers to assure access to safe, affordable, nutritious, and good tasting food. They also help our industries remain competitive on the global markets for our products since much of what is produced in Oregon leaves the state and nation.

Just some of the areas of their critical impact include:

- Developing hazelnut varieties resistant to blight, a disease which is threatening the viability of this iconic Oregon industry.
- Finding cures for red blotch disease and smoke taint in the wine industry, which threaten the future of this important agricultural commodity and associated tourism economy.
- Developing improved productivity and disease resistant varieties of wheat, potatoes, onions and dozens of other crops to better compete in global markets.
- Developing livestock and dairy productivity through sustainable grazing systems.
- Improving shellfish genetics for increased productivity and resilience to a changing environment.
- Supporting small business development by advising food entrepreneurs on new products and markets.
- Developing improved processes and ingredients to help Oregon's world class food and beverage manufacturing industries making beer, wine and dairy products.
- Determining the genetic code for hemp as well as optimum ways to grow, process or formulate it into products.
- Developing sustainable and globally competitive production systems for our farmers and ranchers.
- Developing technologies to help increase productivity and reduce the carbon footprint of agricultural producers.

Unfortunately, COVID has impacted non-state funding sources for the College, so the College is already working to do more with less and prioritize, recognizing the importance of stewarding the resources entrusted to it by the State and its citizens.

Even with those cuts and reductions, the faculty and staff across the state have stepped up to maintain critical research while also providing industries and communities with support to address recent economic challenges as a result of COVID-19. For example:

- Providing food safety and workforce safety guidance for field workers and seafood processors.
- Introducing virtual field days to present vital information to growers and ranchers so that they can make science-based choices about what varieties to plant, how to reduce pesticide use, and how to mitigate risks from pests.

The proposed 5% cuts would have a deleterious effect and put vital research essential to the health of our people, our environment, and our economy, at risk.

As the committee is faced with the tough decisions about how to make its own recommendations, it is important to realize that cuts to OSU's Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension has lasting and potentially devastating impacts for the entire state.

I ask you to imagine an Oregon without hazelnuts or Pinot Noir. Imagine an Oregon without enough safe water to drink or grow food. Imagine an Oregon that is no longer able to export its more than 220 agricultural commodities due to diseases that could not be solved. These are all issues that OSU's research is working to address. Thank you for taking this into consideration as you make your own hard choices for Oregon.

Respectfully,
Angi Bailey

From:
To:
Subject: Budget cuts to Oregon state ag exp stations, ext service and forest research lab
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:58:01 PM

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain, members of the committee,

My name is Mark Dunbar, and I am an SEIU 503 member. I am an accountant at Oregon State University I love the work we do, and I have done this work for 6 years because I believe in our state and the reach we have in the world.

- *I support the department of Integrative Biology within the College of Science and currently help the group of researchers, faculty and community health workers in fighting Covid-19 under the TRACE program.*
- *The impact to any of the budget cuts will disrupt the work and the service we provide to these individuals and this important project as well as the current and future students who we hire to support our mission.*
- *The work these 3 service areas do are critical to our counties, Oregonians and the students that need these services.*
- Even before Covid our department, as well as most of the Universities, have been under staffed and underfunded for years. We have only lost positions as the demanding work has increased. Pulling funding away at a critical time like this is short sighted and even if it doesn't necessarily look like the funding isn't being used most likely the work will still need to be done. Who should add this work to their already large work load?

The work that my colleagues and I do is important to the people we serve, and it's a critical part of Oregon's social safety net. I am asking you to do everything you can to ensure that we are able to continue to provide these services, and not make any further cuts that increase our workloads and hurt our communities.

Thank you for your time, and for your commitment to this issue.

Mark Dunbar
Accountant
Dallas

20 July, 2020

Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
H-178 State Capitol

RE: Oregon Forest Research Laboratory funding

Dear Senators Johnson and Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield,

Our organizations request the funding dedicated to the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory be maintained at the full level allocated for the current biennium. The Oregon Forest Research Laboratory (FRL) is Oregon's original research agency designed to help solve problems, create opportunities, and develop new understanding and innovation about forest ecosystems, forest management, and forest-derived products.

Now, more than ever, we need research to inform critical decisions related to sustainability and climate change across our landscapes and in our rural economies. We are at the crossroads of a climate crisis and sustainability crisis. In the last 40 years, global temperatures have increased by 1.8°F, carbon dioxide levels increased by 23%, and consumption of building materials has increased by as much as 400% to meet the needs of a growing population. All of this impacts Oregonians and drives ecosystem and economic change, including species extinctions, biological invasions, and human and community conflicts.

FRL funding helps address these issues and supports a wide range of research studies across the forest landscape, ensuring the health of our forests and ecosystems, businesses and communities. As we navigate the challenges of COVID-19, FRL funding provides an opportunity for non-biased, science-based sources of education and research built from an over 100-year foundation of the Land Grant University system. FRL work supports all communities and produces research that meets the needs of Oregonians. Defunding or reducing the FRL would have hugely detrimental impacts on our landscapes and communities.

As an example, FRL funding has supported studying the marbled murrelet to help land managers make more informed decisions to help protect this threatened seabird. FRL funds have also helped contribute to mass timber innovations, which boost rural economies and provide sustainable building solutions for urban areas. FRL funds also support a wide range of research on the impacts of wildland fire, highlighting how communities can lessen fire risk by reducing fuels while providing guidance to improve forest health. These are just a few examples of how FRL projects and the communication of results to science peers, land managers, policy makers, and the public is a high priority and leads to innovations throughout Oregon. It is clear FRL projects help secure the health of our forests and ecosystems, provide economic benefits to local communities, and address our increasing climate and sustainability challenges.

We recognize the difficult budget situation the State of Oregon is facing. However, the investments made now to support forests and ecosystem research will help the state address growing climate and sustainability issues. Please continue to support Oregon Forest Research Laboratory funding and the positive outcomes it will facilitate.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Bettina von Hagen
Organization: Ecotrust Forest Management

Name: Jim James
Organization: Oregon Small Woodlands Association & Oregon Tree Farm System

Name: Joe Furia
Organization: World Forestry Center

Name: Jenna Berman
Organization: Team Dirt

Name: Kristina McNitt
Organization: Oregon Forest & Industries Council

27 July, 2020

Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
H-178 State Capitol

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We recognize the difficult budget situation the State of Oregon is facing. However, the investments made now to support forests and ecosystem research will help the state address growing climate and sustainability issues. Please continue to support Oregon Forest Research Laboratory funding and the positive outcomes it will facilitate.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Bettina von Hagen
Organization: Ecotrust Forest Management

Name: Jim James
Organization: Oregon Small Woodlands Association & Oregon Tree Farm System

Name: Joe Furia
Organization: World Forestry Center

Name: Jenna Berman
Organization: Team Dirt

Name: Kristina McNitt
Organization: Oregon Forest & Industries Council

Name: Rex Storm
Organization: Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: Higher Education Budget Cut Testimony
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:02:51 PM

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain, members of the committee,

My name is Michelle Greene, and I am an SEIU 503 member. I am an Administrative Program Assistant at Oregon State University. I love the work we do at OSU's College of Forestry, and I have done this work for the past year to assist the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society positively impact our local, national, and global communities.

The my colleagues at the College of Forestry, the Extension Service, and the Agricultural Experiment Station will be directly affected by the proposed budget cut, making the situation worse for their many underfunded programs. Countless Oregonians in each of the state's counties rely on Extension Service faculty and staff to assist them with a myriad of issues, from small local businesses management to large production consultations, from youth programs like 4-H to gardening courses for community members. The OSU forest research lab is a crucial resource for the timber and sustainable forestry industries, in which Oregon is heavily invested. Further, research conducted by the Agricultural Experiment Station focuses on programs critical to Oregon, the west coast, and the six NIFA challenge areas (like food safety, nutrition, and health; renewable energy, natural resources, and environment; etc.).

The work that my colleagues and I do is important to the people we serve, and it's a critical part of Oregon's social safety net. I am asking you to do everything you can to ensure that we are able to continue to provide these services, and not make any further cuts that increase our workloads and hurt our communities.

Thank you for your time, and for your commitment to this issue.
Michelle

Michelle Greene (she/her), Graduate Program Coordinator
Oregon State University | Forest Ecosystems and Society (FES)
321 Richardson Hall | O: 541-737-6556 | GV: 541-225-5774
FES Office: 541-737-2244 or fes.workbox@oregonstate.edu

Land Acknowledgement: Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR is located within the traditional homelands of the Mary's River or Ampinefu Band of Kalapuya. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 (Kalapuya etc. Treaty), Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to reservations in Western Oregon. Today, living descendants of these people are a part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (<https://www.grandronde.org>) and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians (<https://ctsi.nsn.us>)

Joint Committee on Ways & Means Co-chairs
Senator Betsy Johnson
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Representative Dan Rayfield
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

July 10, 2020

Dear committee members,

My name is Noah Goodwin-Rice and I recently graduated from high school in my home town of Newport, Oregon. Last September I went aboard the R/V *Oceanus* for a four-day research cruise off the Oregon coast, an unforgettable experience that was made possible by the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program. While at sea, I and the other students on board the vessel worked closely with marine science researchers, helping to collect data and learning how science is conducted at sea. I had countless new experiences on that cruise—it was my first time ever sailing beyond sight of land, sleeping overnight on a ship, and observing many of the marine animals that we encountered. It was also my first hands-on experience with several common oceanographic research tools, including a CTD (a device which measures salinity, temperature, and depth as it descends through the water column), a “bongo” plankton net, and benthic sediment box core device.

As a recent high school graduate, I have given a lot of thought recently to the type of career that I would be interested in pursuing in the future. I have long felt drawn to the prospect of becoming an oceanographic field researcher myself, and my time aboard the *Oceanus* gave me the perfect opportunity to see what that career might entail. I also observed and shadowed some of the others aboard the ship, including the *Oceanus* Marine Technician, captain, first mate, and other members of the crew.

My main take-away from the cruise last September was fairly straightforward: I wanted to become a scientist like those on the ship. I am now much more interested in making the careers I observed a part of my future, and I have begun taking the appropriate steps to make that a reality. This month, in fact, I am taking online courses through Oregon State University on marine biology, and this fall I will attend Western Washington University where I will continue to explore different areas of science. I’m still not sure which STEM field I’ll eventually choose, but the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program has shown me that marine science is a good place to start!

Participating in the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program has affected my plans for the future more so than any other single experience of my life. I strongly believe that the type of experience that I had aboard the *Oceanus* last September should continue to be made available to students in the future.

Sincerely,



Noah Goodwin-Rice
ngoodrice02@gmail.com
541-351-5315



Warrenton High School
"Home of the Warriors"

#ALLIN

Josh Jannusch - Principal
Ian O'Brien- Vice Principal/Athletic Director
Michelle Annat- Head Secretary

Subcommittee on Education, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Lew Fredrick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

My name is Josh Jannusch and I'm a STEM teacher and Principal at Warrenton High School. In September of 2016 I was granted a wonderful opportunity to sail with the R/V Oceanus for a teacher outreach program. As I was in the early stages of developing a set of elective classes in support of our school's STEM program, my experience aboard the Oceanus was instrumental. This opportunity would not have happened had it not been for the funding from the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program

What I didn't know when boarding the vessel was the extent of which I was completely unaware of the oceanographic and biological challenges facing our waters. Every day I stand in front of my students and preach about how science, technology, engineering and mathematics are indispensable components to understanding the world, be it dry or wet, but never having been involved in the operations of the applications for which I'm teaching. The R/V Oceanus changed everything in my classroom. More than just being aware of rising water temperatures, krill migration patterns and densities and changes in ocean acidity I felt childishly naïve about the need for human acuity to these issues. Working side-by-side with scientists, I was able to field inexhaustible quantities of questions. In turn, this allowed me to succinctly and rigorously understand what it was that I need to bring back to the classroom; experience and perspective.

In the months that followed my voyage, I began investigating my labs, projects and application units to determine how I could integrate wave energy, vessel operations, and data analysis from sub-surface instrumentation reading to teach sinusoidal function behavior, trigonometric navigation techniques and have a real-world application for extrapolating exponential models which is, above all else, finally relevant.

Being infatuated with the North Coast of Oregon I am developing applicable STEM curriculum to students whose entire family lives and thrives with the tides. I owe my clarity of purpose in my classroom to the R/V Oceanus. For had it not been for the staff and crew, my message of real-world application in the STEM classes would have been assumption, not experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration on continuing to fund this indispensable program. Supporting the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program is to support teachers in the classroom. For if we don't continue to educate the educators they will have nothing to educate with.



Warrenton High School
"Home of the Warriors"

#ALLIN

Josh Jannusch - Principal
Ian O'Brien- Vice Principal/Athletic Director
Michelle Annat- Head Secretary

Sincerely,
Josh Jannusch
Warrenton High School
Principal



LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Karen Gray
Superintendent

District Office | Teaching & Learning Center
1212 NE Fogarty Street, Newport, OR 97365
PO Box 1110, Newport, OR 97365
T 541-265-9211 | F 541-265-3059
www.lincoln.k12.or.us

June 19, 2020

Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education
Senator Lew Fredrick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Fredrick and Representative McLain and committee members,

I write this letter in support of the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program at Oregon State University. I am a STEM Specialist and Math/Science teacher for grades 7-12 with Lincoln County School District, preparing to serve for a year as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow in Washington, DC.

In September, 2016, I was very fortunate to be selected as an Educator at Sea for the R/V Oceanus STEM Research Cruise which was provided shiptime as part of the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program. For this experience, I supervised high school students, participated in OSU faculty research projects, and led shipboard tours when we docked in Portland. This was truly a life- and career-changing experience for me and my students back home.

In short, the experience grows marine careers. Students and teachers on board did not just observe: we actively learned and participated in the research. We deployed heavy equipment off the side of the ship, we collected population data on marine mammals and pelagic birds, and we evaluated graphic representations of the data. This unique, hands-on experience helped students and teachers solidify scientific content and deeply understand scientific processes. It allowed us to connect what we learn and teach in the classroom with real science, real data analysis. I cannot overstate the importance of such real-life, hands-on experiences and the direct impact on students involved is clear. Of the five students who were on board the R/V Oceanus during my experience, I am still in touch with three of them. One is finishing a degree in Marine Engineering at OSU, one is pursuing an Engineering degree at Portland State University, and the third is pursuing a degree in Marine Biology from University of Washington. For the teachers involved, it serves to reinvigorate our teaching, allows us to establish partnerships with scientists, and affords the opportunity to connect students with local issues and real data.

Yet the impact extends far beyond the initial participants. The direct impact on me, for example, affected my students back in the classroom. During the shipboard experience, I wrote regular blog posts about the research, marine science and maritime careers. Students back in the classroom wrote questions through the blogs that I would then relay to the appropriate crew member or scientist. Once back in the classroom, we engaged with the data and discussed marine biology and marine careers. It helped change my teaching and improved student engagement in my science and math classes, even in subsequent years.

The experience also opened doors for me personally, that in turn impacted my students and colleagues. For example, establishing relationships with Oregon State University, Oregon Sea Grant, and Oregon Coast STEM Hub has allowed me to engage my students with scientists, materials, and career-related experiences over the years. These experiences have cascaded into leadership positions for me, enabling me to share and teach my colleagues within the district and the state. For example, I became a Teacher on Special Assignment with the school district for two years, specializing in connecting K-12 teachers and their students with Marine STEM experiences, lessons, and materials. I also taught a graduate-level class to teachers and recently co-facilitated the Oregon Marine Scientist and Educator Alliance.

I cannot say enough about the importance of experiential learning for both students and teachers. As you can see, this kind of experience has a profound impact on our students and even our communities. The more students experience marine/local careers, the greater positive impact they will have on their communities. Please continue support for the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program at OSU. The program's impact extends far beyond what we can see, and what we see is already profound. Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kama N. Almasi, PhD
Lincoln County School District Science and Math Educator
2020-21 Albert Einstein Fellow
kama.almasi@lincoln.k12.or.us
(541) 272-1721

July 15, 2020

Alan Pazar
89487 Highway 101 N
Florence, OR 97439

Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Committee Co-Chairs,

My name is Alan Pazar. I am a long-term commercial fisherman here in Oregon. My activities also include research activities with Government Agencies, educational institutions and private researchers. I am writing today to encourage you to continue to support Oregon State University's Oceangoing Research Vessel Program.

I have long been a supporter of oceanographic and fishery research and have often worked closely with OSU and their Ship Operations. OSU's research activities are world class and utilize cutting edge technologies to monitor, learn and offer solutions to today's complex questions regarding our shared ocean. In my role as owner/operator of a private research vessel (R/V *Pacific Surveyor*) I have had the opportunity to work with many State and Federal agencies and private institutions in our common goal of expanding the understanding of our ocean. Oregon State University stands second to none in the scope, depth and quality of research and education in ocean sciences. The Oceangoing Research Vessel Program is an integral part of this.

Rapidly changing ocean chemistry must be observed, understood and conclusions acted on to promote the biological sustainability of our ocean resources, many of which provide nourishing protein for a growing population. Continued and expanded monitoring is essential to provide fishery managers good information to make good management decisions to help keep not just fisheries sustainable and well managed, but to protect and bolster coastal economies that are so closely connected to the sea.

The educational and training opportunities that OSU's Ship Ops provide cannot be overstated. Our next generation of original thinking research scientists are students and fledgling researchers today, enrolled in one of many areas of marine study that OSU offers, all needing access to sea to test hypotheses and expand existing programs to help make tomorrow's world better.

Valuable work has been done in the study and understanding of rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, hypoxia and mapping of nearshore bottom for tsunami prediction and survival. Fisheries research coupled with new genetic study techniques has expanded our understanding and will help give us the tools to have healthy fish stocks for generations to come.

None of this is possible without access to sea. Newport, Oregon, on Yaquina Bay, is uniquely positioned and qualified to home port OSU's Research Fleet. As NOAA has discovered after relocating their West Coast Research Fleet to Yaquina Bay from Seattle, Washington: the travel time to sea is a matter of minutes; the channel and bar are deep and easily navigated; marine support businesses are extraordinarily abundant and extremely skilled. Visitors to the area with marine science backgrounds are in awe of the concentration of support for our various research activities.

Oregon State University operates and maintains their fleet of research vessels: R/V Oceanus, R/V Elakha, and the soon-to-be completed new, state of the art R/V Taani. These vessels are critical to the continuation of long-term data gathering research projects that have many years and many layers of data to refer to and compare with. It would truly be a devastating blow to the advancement of our understanding of the sea to interrupt this effort.

While COVID 19 concerns continue to influence our actions and decisions culturally, socially and financially, we must be careful not to take our 'eye off the ball' of other critical programs and projects that are existing. We continue to look for and find answers to current questions and challenges in our oceans. We must use the best science to make the best decisions to get the best results.

Please act to continue to support the OSU Research Fleet with continued funding. The health of our region, our State, our country and our world are counting on it!

Thank you for your consideration.

Alan Pazar

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: Please Don't Cut Extension or FRL Budgets
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:12:24 PM

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain, members of the committee,

My name is Jessica King, and I am an SEIU 503 member. I am an Administrative Program Assistant in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University.

I love the work we do in our college—our research is widely varied, from Christmas tree farms to cross-laminated timber to how communities recreate on local public lands. The innovative and practicable research we are doing draws amazing students to our programs. Above all our research is impactful and important to the health and well-being of the people and economy in the State of Oregon and beyond. I have done this work for six years because of my love for the students we educate, the people we help, and the communities we serve.

While I primarily work with graduate students, visitors to the college are often drawn to my office since it is on the first floor of the building. I cannot even begin to recall all of the questions that visitors have come to us with, but I can tell you they are as varied as the research we do. A few things people have sought information on are VOC emissions standards for wood adhesives, identifying the type of wood from their favorite jewelry box, making toilet paper, and treating diseased trees. Each visitor's question is important to them, and so it's important to me to help them find the information they need. I may not have the answers, but I help them connect to others within the college who are always able and quick to help those people who come to us for answers. We are a source of information for individuals and communities, but also for the State of Oregon and beyond.

The students we educate are bright and talented, and above all, they are determined to make a difference in their field. Through hands on experience doing research in our labs, wherever those labs may be, and learning in- and outside the classroom with our faculty and staff, our educational programs prepare our students to be tomorrow's leaders. A lot of the graduates from my department's undergraduate and graduate programs go on to work in various wood and engineering industries within Oregon, and Oregon's industries need our graduates to continue the innovative work around cross-laminated timber and mass plywood panels that positively impact rural Oregon economies.

If budget cuts to Extension and FRL are made, the impact may not be immediately seen in the workforce, but it will be felt. The work that my colleagues and I do is important to the students we educate, the faculty and staff we support, and the communities we serve. I am asking you to do everything you can to ensure that we are able to continue to provide these services, and not make any further cuts that increase our workloads and hurt our communities.

Thank you for your time, and for your commitment to this issue.

Jessica L. King
Administrative Program Assistant
College of Forestry

Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR



**STARKER
FORESTS, INC.**

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July 22, 2020

Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,
Co-chairs of the Ways & Means Sub Committee on Education

Re: Forest Research Laboratory funding

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

My name is Fred Pfund. I am the Vice-President of Forestry at Starker Forests. I am asking you to maintain the funding for the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory at its full allocated level for the current biennium. Starker Forests is a family owned mid-sized forestland owner that strives to actively manage our forests with the best information available to us.

Because of our size, we do not have an in-house research staff that is available to answer questions as they arise. We rely on research that is conducted at OSU by scientists who have the expertise in the specific area we are interested in. As members of five research cooperatives, we have study sites spread out across our ownership. Areas of research include tree response to climate change, nutrition, animal habitat, genetics, disease and growth and yield. We are fortunate to have a great working relationship with many of the scientists at OSU and our close proximity to the university allows them to install research projects on our lands. Over the years, this research has helped us improve the management of our lands and improved our understanding of the forests we work in.

Starker Forests believes that support for the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory is important as it aids in the understanding of Oregon's forests and the impacts those forests have on local communities and economies. I realize that you have a difficult budget situation ahead of you that requires allocating limited resources to a variety of programs. I encourage you to continue the funding for the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory.

Sincerely,

Fred Pfund
Vice-President

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

My name is Helle Ruddenklau. I'm a farmer from Amity and I urge you to protect what is known as the OSU Statewides as you rebalance Oregon's budget. The Statewides include the Extension Service, the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Forest Research Laboratory.

The Statewides provide outstanding value to Oregon. The research which is generated on campus and at the Experiment Stations and then disseminated via the Extension Service provides unbiased, timely, actionable information farmers rely on.

This is often research which has lower commercial potential and the agricultural companies are not interested in funding it, but is nevertheless critical to the sustainability of Oregon's agriculture. When a new pest arrives in our fields, it is the Extension Service we turn to in order to identify the pest and determine the best course of action. Do we treat with a pesticide or are there natural predators who will take care of the problem for us? What is the lifecycle of the pest? Can we find a way to interrupt it maybe controlling it that way? Without having a local crops agent to turn to and the expertise of the university to back them up, we would have to direct those questions to the people whose job it is to sell us chemicals.

Slugs are a persistent and widespread problem in Oregon on all types of farms. On our farm we spread tons of slugbait every year to try to control them. A few sessions ago, the Oregon legislature allotted money for OSU to hire a slug expert. Dr. Rory McDonell has been successful in identifying spearmint oil as being very toxic to slugs. He has also found a native nematode right here in Oregon which is a natural enemy. These are two promising control methods and both are environmentally friendly. We hope to get them commercialized soon, so we can use them in our fields. By the way, as they are natural products, these would be allowed in organic production as well.

This is the type of research we only get from OSU. It is also research which takes commitment and resources over a number of years. Such efforts cannot easily be suspended for a few years while the economy is low and then restarted. These are valuable employees and programs which rely on steady funding. You can help protect Oregon's environmental and economic future by investing in the Statewides.

Thank you,

Helle Ruddenklau
Ruddenklau Farms
12500 SW Salt Creek Road
Amity, OR 97101
503-932-0558



July 22, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways & Means SubCommittee on Education

RE: OSU Statewide Public Service Programs

Dear Senator Frederick & Representative McLain,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the importance of the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs – the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory. Known as “The OSU Statewides,” these programs provide state-of-the-art research and outreach generated by scientists and extension agents to real-world problems.

Since March these programs have responded, adapted and innovated to continue servicing community and state needs; the examples are numerous. In Wasco County, OSU Extension helped deliver a successful Oregon cherry harvest and have kept migrant farmworkers and their families healthy by coordinating information from county health, labor departments and other community partners. Coronavirus education and outreach by OSU Extension has included assistance with contact tracing, webinars, information packets, and signage in English and Spanish about masks, social distancing, and proper use of the field washing stations.

The Agricultural Experiment Stations across the state have recognized that research is essential to the continuity of the state’s food production line. A pause could result in a year’s worth of lost work due to its seasonal nature. The AECs quickly prioritized

policies and procedures to protect researchers while still allowing them to continue critical work.

Scientists and foresters with the Forest Research Laboratory have continued research in areas like forest management and fire resilience in newly adapted and remote formats as the risk of wildfire does not stop with the pandemic. The work allows land managers to make informed decisions and prioritize the health and safety of Oregonians.

The Co-Chairs have proposed a 5% cut to these critical programs. Amortized to a single fiscal year, this equates to a 10% cut. As past budget reductions have proven, cuts take years to recover from and result in an inability to be innovative and nimble in addressing emerging issues, like adapting to a post-COVID world. Now is not a time to cut programs that have such a statewide significance.

We acknowledge the unique state of Oregon's economy and recognize the difficult decisions you will have to make in the weeks and months ahead. As a critical part of OSU's Land Grant mission to serve all corners of the state, we ask that the OSU Statewides do not take a disproportionate cut compared to other higher education accounts during the 2020 Special Session budget reconciliation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Association of Oregon Counties
Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries
Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers
Oregon Association of Nurseries
Oregon Cattleman's Association
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregonians for Food and Shelter
Oregon Water Resources Congress
Oregon Wheat Growers Association
Oregon Winegrowers Association
SEIU – Local 503
Tillamook Creamery

CC: Senator Betsy Johnson, Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Representative Dan Rayfield

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: Testimony on proposed budget cuts for OSU Extension
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 7:53:46 AM

To:

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain, members of the committee,

My name is Gloria O'Brien, and I am an SEIU 503 member. I am a Biological Science Research Technician III. Which is a fancy way of saying that I am a Greenhouse Tech. I serve as the Integrated Pest Management Coordinator at Greenhouse Operations, at the Oregon State Agricultural Experiment Station, located at the Corvallis campus. Prior to working here I worked in the private sector as a Grower for two decades. I came here as an opportunity to work with students and share my experience. I have been at OSU for 13 years now.

I spoke before your group during the cuts of the great recession and I know the budget decisions you need to make are hard. I encourage you to go to the web site of the Oregon Center for Public Policy to consider creative revenue increases instead.

The work that is done at the extension branches is more vital than ever in a world facing so many changes from climate chaos. The county offices too are important in serving a community hit hard economically by Covid. The canning tip hotline is being used more than ever. Don't cut the line.

.I am asking you to do everything you can to ensure that we are able to continue to provide these services, and not make any further cuts that increase our workloads and hurt our communities.

Thank you for your time, and for your commitment to this issue.

Gloria O'Brien
BSRT III
Corvallis, Oregon

□