



February 25, 2019

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  
 Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senators Johnson, Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield:

As you know, the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs – the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory – provide state-of-the-art research and outreach in all 36 counties in Oregon. Known as “The OSU Statewides,” these programs apply expertise and advice generated by scientists and extension agents to real-world problems such as

pollinator health, pesticides management, water quality and quantity, access to high-quality and nutritional food, and many other environmental quality, health and economic development issues facing Oregonians across the state.

Over the last decade, these programs have faced a series of budget proposals that would close facilities and reduce personnel. And over this period, as a result of assistance and leadership from the legislature, these programs have largely benefitted from legislative funding that has filled the holes, and in 2015 enabled some modest new programs. Unfortunately the Governor’s proposal for the 2019-21 biennium includes no increased funding for the OSU Statewides even though OSU figures indicate that state-mandated costs are increasing at 8 percent.

We deeply appreciate the support you and your colleagues have provided over the years. You know how the Statewides can help the entire state overcome the vexing challenge of bridging the economic divide between urban and rural Oregon.

With the help and support of a wide variety of interest groups and stakeholders, the OSU Board of Trustees developed and approved a comprehensive proposal to add \$30 million in new and recovery programs aimed at making continued progress toward economic prosperity in every corner of the state. The attached information sheet provides detailed information about how these programs will continue to contribute to Oregon’s economic, environmental, and social vitality.

The \$30 million package for the OSU Statewides is incorporated in SB 257 and would be added to the 2017-19 legislatively approved budget of \$124.4 million. While a number of possible mechanisms may be available to the Ways & Means Committee for financing the Statewides, our primary concern in writing to you is to ensure that the \$30 million package is fully funded to provide increases of \$16 million for the Agricultural Experiment Station, \$11.5 million for the Extension Service, and \$2.5 million for the Forest Research Laboratory.

We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months to make meaningful progress in a bi-partisan, bi-cameral approach that addresses the needs of urban and rural Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Ann Gosch, President  
**4-H Foundation**

Blake Rowe, Chief Executive Officer  
**Oregon Wheat Growers**

Anne Maloney, Secretary  
**Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership**

Charles Ortiz, President  
**Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Association**

April Snell, Executive Director  
**Oregon Water Resources Congress**

Chris Schreimer, Executive Director  
**Oregon Tilth**

Bill Brewer, President & CEO  
**Oregon Potato Commission**

Dawsen Koos, Chairman  
**Oregon Clover Commission**

Doug Maag, Chairman  
**Oregon Beef Council**

Jim Desmond, Director  
**The Nature Conservancy**

Eric C. Hunter, President & CEO  
**CareOregon**

Jim Fitzgerald, Executive Director  
**Far West Agribusiness Association**

Greg Block, President  
**Sustainable Northwest**

Jim Geisinger, Executive Vice President  
**Association of Oregon Loggers**

Greg Younger, President  
**Oregon Dairy Industries**

Jim James, Executive Director  
**Oregon Small Woodlands Association**

Heather Jefferis, Executive Director  
**Oregon Council for Behavioral Health**

Juli Jones, Assistant Manager  
**Nut Growers Society of Oregon**

Helle Ruddenklau, President  
**Oregon Women for Agriculture**

Karen Lewotsky, Rural Partnerships Director  
**Oregon Environmental Council**

Ivan Maluski, Policy Director  
**Friends of Family Farmers**

Katie Fast, Executive Director  
**Oregonians for Food & Shelter**

Jake Stockfleth, President  
**Oregon Seed Association**

Kelly Crane, Executive Director  
**Oregon Farmers Markets Association**

Jason Hunton, President  
**Oregon Seed League**

Lillian Shirley, Director of Public Health  
**Oregon Health Authority**

Jeff Stone, Executive Director  
**Oregon Association of Nurseries**

Mark Hagman, Chairman  
**Oregon Mint Commission**

Jeremy Barnicle, Executive Director  
**Ecotrust**

Martha Schrader, President  
**Association of Oregon Counties**

Jerome Rosa, Executive Director  
**Oregon Cattlemen's Association**

Mary Anne Cooper, Vice President  
**Oregon Farm Bureau**

Megan Kemple, Director  
**Oregon Farm to School Network**

Shawn Fels, President  
**Oregon Cheese Guild**

Meredith Nagely, Manager  
**Oregon Hazelnut Commission**

Spencer Masterson, State Network Manager  
**Oregon Food Bank**

Mike Doke, Executive Director  
**Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers**

Stuart O’Neill, Executive Director  
**Rogue Farm Corps**

Rex Storm, Chair  
**Oregon Tree Farm System**

Tami Kerr, Executive Director  
**Oregon Dairy Farmer’s Association**

Roger Beyer, Executive Director  
**Oregon Seed Council**

Tim Butler, Chair  
**Oregon Essential Oil Growers**

Ryan Burge, President  
**Oregon Institute of Food Technologists**

Tim Danowski, Executive Director  
**Oregon Winegrower’s Association**

Zach Krahmer, Chairman  
**Oregon Blueberry Commission**