



March 15, 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

Bill Brewer, President & CEO
Oregon Potato Commission

Anne Maloney, Secretary
Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership

Blake Rowe, Chief Executive Officer
Oregon Wheat Growers

April Snell, Executive Director
Oregon Water Resources Congress

Charles Ortiz, President
Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Association

Chris Schreimer, Executive Director
Oregon Tilth

Jeremy Barnicle, Executive Director
Ecotrust

Dawsen Koos, Chairman
Oregon Clover Commission

Jerome Rosa, Executive Director
Oregon Cattlemen's Association

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

Ken Provencher, President & CEO
PacificSource Health Plans

Jeff Stone, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Nurseries

Lillian Shirley, Director of Public Health
Oregon Health Authority

Mark Hagman, Chairman
Oregon Mint Commission

Ryan Burge, President
Oregon Institute of Food Technologists

Martha Schrader, President
Association of Oregon Counties

Shawn Fels, President
Oregon Cheese Guild

Mary Anne Cooper, Vice President
Oregon Farm Bureau

Spencer Masterson, State Network Manager
Oregon Food Bank

Megan Kemple, Director
Oregon Farm to School Network

Stacy Ann Kraker, Board President
Oregon Organic Coalition

Meredith Nagely, Manager
Oregon Hazelnut Commission

Stuart O'Neill, Executive Director
Rogue Farm Corps

Mike Doke, Executive Director
Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers

Tami Kerr, Executive Director
Oregon Dairy Farmer's Association

Phil Hunter, President
Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Assoc.

Tim Butler, Chair
Oregon Essential Oil Growers

Rex Storm, Chair
Oregon Tree Farm System

Tim Danowski, Executive Director
Oregon Winegrower's Association

Roger Beyer, Executive Director
Oregon Seed Council

Zach Krahmer, Chairman
Oregon Blueberry Commission