

SB 844

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Thank you Chair Wagner and Committee Members. For the record, my name is Weston Miller. I am an Associate Professor at Oregon State University and project manager for Solve Pest Problems. For the record, my name is William Boggess. I am the Executive Associate Dean in the College of Agricultural Sciences. We are here in support of Solve Pest Problems and SB 844.

First, we'd like to express our sincere appreciation for your support of SB 257 and increased funding for the Statewide Public Service Programs. Included in SB 257 is essential recurring base funding for Solve Pest Problems. (We'll return to funding needs in a minute.)

Solve Pest Problems is a website designed to reduce the impacts of pests and pest management practices on people and the environment in non-agricultural settings. Specific goals include:

- Provide access to effective, low-risk, science-based IPM information for preventing or mitigating intolerable pest damage.
- Emphasize pest prevention through non-chemical methods, including cultural, physical, and biological management techniques.
- Reduce risks to people, property, resources, and the environment from pests and pest management practices.
- Reduce the use of pesticides by eliminating unnecessary pesticide use.
- Advise users about the risks of inaction for pest problems.
- Facilitate use of product labels, personal protective equipment, and pesticide use record-keeping.
- Advise users about the risks of specific management techniques and pesticides and provide information to help avoid/minimize the risk.
- Identify recommended practices for management of specific pests.

Solve Pest Problems is a collaborative vision to address these pressing issues while engaging diverse stakeholders in the development of content and technology as well as marketing, outreach, and evaluation. An unprecedented range of agencies, organizations and businesses

including those with typically divergent agendas have helped to develop and support Solve Pest Problems. Among the 18 member Advisory Group are: City of Portland, Clear Language Group, Columbia River Keepers, Huerto de la Familia, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides, Oregonians for Food and Shelter, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Pest Solutions LLC. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to this effort. The program's track record for expanding the common ground on typically controversial topics shows how broad its appeal is and how powerful could be its impact.

The Solve Pest Problems project advisory group has established a three year content development goal of 500 pages with an additional 100 – 150 Spanish language pages as identified by the Latinx advisory group. The projected three year costs are approximately \$3,000,000.

Funding Components:

- As noted previously, included in SB 257 is a commitment of \$350,000/year of **recurring** Extension funding for ongoing program support and website maintenance. This would provide a total of \$1,050,000 toward the \$3,000,000 needed over the next three years (FY20-FY22) to complete content development. (It would also provide \$350,000/year of **recurring**, on-going base support to maintain Solve Pest Problems beyond FY22.)
- With the passage of SB 257, OSU Extension Service will be able to commit to provide an additional \$1,000,000 (**one-time** funds) for content development over the next three years (FY20-FY22).
- This will leave approximately \$950,000 of **one-time** funds needed to complete content development over the next three years. We plan to leverage funds made available through passage of SB 257 as a 2:1 match for grants and contracts from partner organizations and granting agencies to secure the remaining \$950,000 of **one-time** funds needed over FY20-FY22 to complete the 500 pages of content development.

Thank you again for your support of SB 257 and the OSU Statewide Public Service units. We'd be pleased to answer any questions.