



OREGONIANS FOR FOOD & SHELTER

1320 Capitol Street NE • Suite B-50 • Salem, Oregon 97301

ofsonline.org; 503-370-8092

A non-profit coalition to promote the efficient production of quality food and fiber while protecting human health, personal property and the environment, through the integrated, responsible use of pest management products, soil nutrients and biotechnology.

March 5, 2021

Senator Dembrow, Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Chair Dembrow,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective regarding SB 404, which creates new organic positions and infrastructure. We strongly support organic production as serving an important role in the system, and agree that more support is needed for this industry. However, we also know the same to be true for farmers of all stripes.

The addition of six new positions at Oregon State University (OSU) solely focused on organic production directs significant state resources for research and extension toward a narrow segment of agricultural stakeholders, when this could instead be serving *all* types of Oregon farmers, many of whom have unmet needs for increased university support. OSU's own prioritization process has consistently highlighted the need for a focus on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a way to serve their stakeholders broadly. Last session, OSU's requested funding for IPM was not allotted, while three new organic positions were approved. Further, due to budget cuts, OSU is currently struggling even to meet continuing service levels.

IPM is an approach to production that seeks to reduce risks from both pests and pesticides, while promoting economic sustainability. This approach has been internationally recognized and acknowledged as sustainable, practical, and protective of both human health and the environment. It is an approach that can bring about advances in pest management and risk reduction for organic and conventional farmers alike. Yet, research and extension capacity in IPM is severely limited by available funding, and many unmet needs remain related to production and pest management. This is particularly true in Oregon and for many of the crops noted in SB 404. In my former role at Oregon State University, I worked directly with Oregon's berry, wine grape, tree fruit and nut, and specialty seed industries on IPM strategic planning. Across both organic and conventional growers, the [list of needs](#) for research and extension support is long.

We urge you to consider this as you recommend the investment of significant state resources in support of Oregon agriculture. We critically need positions that serve all farmers, and invest in the advancements we seek across agriculture as a whole.

Sincerely,

Katie Murray

Executive Director

katiemurray@ofsonline.org

541.231.1983

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Phipps, *Chairman*:

Oregon Golf Course
Superintendents Association

Luke Bergey, *Vice Chairman*

Miami Corporation Management LLC

Kevin Richards, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Fox Hollow Ranch

Michelle Armstrong

Wilbur-Ellis Company

Seth Barnes

Oregon Forest & Industries Council

Eric Bowers

Oregon Seed Council

Dallin Brooks

Western Wood Preservers Institute

David Cramsey

Roseburg Forest Products

James Curry

Bayer U.S. - Crop Science

Scott Dahlman

FMC Corporation

Amanda Dalton

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers

Curt Dannen

Nutrien Ag Solutions

Ken Dey

J.R. Simplot Company

Greg Ego

Rasmussen Spray Service,

John Enright

KWS Seeds

David Hampton

Hampton Lumber

Amanda Hoey

Oregon Wheat Growers League

Bill Hoyt

Oregon Cattlemen's Association

Barb Iverson

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation

Tami Kerr

Oregon Dairy Farmers Association

Rick Krohn

Pacific Northwest Aerial Applicators

Greg Loberg

West Coast Beet Seed Company

J.P. Mischkot

Glass Tree Care & Spray

Russ Morrison

Hancock Forest Management

Joe Newton

Lone Rock Timber Management Co

Annette Price

Pacific Power

Ted Reiss, Past Chairman

Seneca

Ben Sacher

Syngenta

Alec Shebiel

Umatilla Electric Cooperative

Caroline Silveira

Corteva Agriscience

April Snell

Oregon Water Resources Congress

Larry Treleven

Oregon Pest Control Association

Meghan Tuttle

Weyerhaeuser Company

Paul Washburn

Western Helicopter Services

Chuck Wolsborn

Gresham Golf Course