

Dear Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing you today to ask for your support of the continued service level funding for Oregon Statewide Public Service. Programs including OSU Extension Services, Agricultural Experiment Stations, and Forest Research Laboratories are not only beneficial to our state, but they impact every county, community and Oregonian. As a resident of Wallowa County, I have seen firsthand how the programs supported by the Oregon Statewide Public Service play an integral part in my community.

While the impact of these programs can be felt in many ways, I personally volunteer in the 4-H program in various roles including executive board member, horse leader treasurer, and club leader. I have witnessed the positive impact that 4-H has on youth and their families. This program provides a multitude of ways for kids to grow their life skills, foster leadership, and follow opportunities even as high as the national level that may otherwise not have been available to them without our OSU Extension Services.

One of my favorite parts of being a club leader is watching kids gain confidence in skills such as public speaking which will be with them for a lifetime. I also love for them to learn the joys of serving their community through service projects. With our club American Spirit program, members put up flags at businesses on holidays throughout the year that everyone in the community can enjoy. We also volunteer annually to help put together the food and gift baskets for those in need across the county.

While I could go on and on about all the ways my community benefits from the programs included in Oregon Statewide Public Service, I know your time is valuable. Thank you both for your time and dedication to your constituents and our great State of Oregon. I look forward to speaking with you virtually on March 24th during OSU Advocacy Day. Thank you again for your time and your consideration in supporting the \$158.5 m for the 2021-23 biennium for Oregon Statewide Public Service.

Sincerely,

Katie Howard