

*March 2, 2023*

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senator Suzanne Weber, Vice-Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Education

RE: SB 458, funding for OSU Statewide Programs

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

We are writing today to express our support for the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs – the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory. Known as “The OSU Statewides,” these programs serve all Oregonians by providing state-of-the-art research and community-based outreach to address real-world problems.

We support the OSU Statewides request for the 2023-25 biennium of \$206 million. This request includes CSL plus a new investment of \$34.3 million in Resilient Oregon Programming. This new programming will help communities across Oregon respond to public health emergencies, natural disasters and ongoing climate change effects.

Since March 2020, the OSU Statewides have responded to the realities of COVID-19, wildfire and drought by adapting and innovating to deliver programming in new ways and adjusting priorities to address communities’ current needs. Without full base funding, the OSU Statewides’ ability to provide this level of service, research and education will decrease.

Our natural resource industries are better because of our partnership with OSU Statewides. From applied research in the production and marketing for specialty crops, to expertise in water use and conservation, to helping producers make data-informed decisions about best practices in pest and disease management, our farmers have been able to adopt management strategies and adapt to changing environments.

Thank you for your service to the State of Oregon. We recognize you have big decisions ahead. Please continue to recognize OSU’s land grant mission to serve all corners of the state by continuing to invest in programs like the OSU Statewides that have significant impact for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration.

