

## **Gregory H. Macpherson**

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### **Via email to OLIS Legislative Portal**

Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Members of Joint Committee on Ways and Means

### **Subject: Testimony on Budget for OSU Statewide Programs**

Co-Chairs Sanchez and Steiner and Members of the Committee:

I operate a farm in Linn County that has been in my family for four generations. Before transitioning to that position in 2015 I practiced law for four decades with the Portland office of Stoel Rives LLP advising leading regional clients.

I am writing in support of the budget request for Oregon State University's Statewide Public Service Programs, which include the Extension Service, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Forest Research Laboratory. In my career I have encountered the work of all three of these Statewide Programs.

**Extension Service:** In my farming operations I consult regularly with the Extension Service office that covers Lane, Linn, and Benton Counties. I have received very useful advice on maintenance of our pastures, choice of ground cover to prevent erosion, and application of weed control agents. In addition to these services that improve the productivity of our farm, I have our well water tested regularly by the Extension Service office in Corvallis to determine the level of nitrates. This testing assures that my family and tenants drawing from the same well do not suffer adverse health impacts from exposure to excessive nitrate levels.

**Agricultural Experiment Station:** Several years ago I planted a hazelnut orchard on part of our farm. The Oregon hazelnut industry is in transition as older orchards are radically pruned (reducing yields) or are cleared entirely due to the impact of Eastern Filbert Blight. The planting stock I used was developed at OSU's Agricultural Experiment Station for resistance to EFB. The replacement of old hazelnut orchards with new blight resistant varieties is apparent across the Willamette Valley. This process promises to resurrect the prospects for a crop that is a key agricultural commodity and is not grown in meaningful quantities elsewhere in North America.

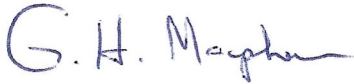
**Forest Research Laboratory:** The forest products industry is a pillar of Oregon's economy. In my legal career I advised several of the state's leading companies in that industry. I saw how important new engineered wood products are to the success of those companies and the family wage jobs they support. OSU's Forest Research Laboratory is a key player in the development of those products. Furthermore, those wood products have a much lower carbon footprint than the steel and concrete materials they can replace.

I served in the Oregon House from 2003 to 2009. I realize the legislature receives a lot of funding requests. In considering them you should recognize that ongoing core functions, like those of OSU's Statewide Programs, can suffer from disinvestment. If they are not maintained at full strength and enhanced in critical periods we are weakening the foundation that has supported Oregon's economy in the past and will continue to support it in the future. Therefore, I urge you to allocate to the Statewide Programs an increase from the 2021-23 budget of \$15.7 million plus an additional \$34.3 million for Resilient Oregon Programming to enhance the impact of those programs.

Too often the issues that come before the legislature pit different parts of the state against each other, as reflected in the so-called greater Idaho movement or rural-urban divide. Because OSU's Statewide Programs touch all parts of the state and support industries that employ Oregonians everywhere they are a key demonstration of common purpose. Please affirm that common purpose by funding the requested base increase and Resilient Oregon Programming.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G. H. Macpherson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gregory H. Macpherson