

April 13, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Member	Representative Jami Cate
Member	Representative Paul Evans
Member	Representative Paul Holvey
Member	Representative Rick Lewis
Member	Representative Susan McLain
Member	Representative Khanh Pham
Member	Representative E. Werner Reschke
Member	Representative Andrea Valderrama

Re: Support SB 458 Oregon Statewide Public Service Programs

I am an Oregon State University Master Gardener. I ask you to strongly support **SB 458** which funds **OSU Statewide Public Service Programs at \$206 million.**

The OSU Extension Service is one of three statewide public service programs. It engages people, families, and businesses to help solve problems, manage resources, and develop leadership in rural and urban areas. Investing in OSU Extension Service provides immediate benefit for both rural and urban Oregonians.

As an active OSU Extension volunteer, I see, firsthand, how Extension programs engage people and families to better their lives. Each year, Extension Master Gardeners teach thousands of local gardeners how to grow their own food and how to garden using practices that build soil, conserve water, and help wildlife.

Through my volunteer work, I know the strong need for and interest in home-grown, quality food. I also know the urgent need for information about gardening during this time of rapidly changing climate. That's why I am pleased to see the proposed new initiative to address increasing resiliency of our food system, communities, and the natural resources.

In summary, please support SB 458 which funds Oregon State University Extension Statewide Public Service Programs as requested: a total of **\$206 M which includes the \$50 million package** to restore Continuing Service Level and initiatives to build resiliency. At this level, Extension will continue current services and expand into new, critical areas to build resilient communities, food systems, and natural resources.

Please support expanding opportunities for Oregonians by fully funding **SB 458 OSU Statewide Public Service Programs**. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linnie O'Flanagan-Gorre

Brookings, Curry County