

Submitter: Darcy Sexson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs, which includes the Extension Service, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and Forest Research Laboratory. These programs play a vital role in addressing real-world problems and providing state-of-the-art research and community-based education to all Oregonians. OSU is asking for \$207.2 million to maintain current statewide services and build capacity to focus integrated research and Extension efforts in critical areas identified by communities and a diverse coalition of stakeholders.

My name is Darcy Sexson. I am a mom to 2 young boys who will be future 4-H & FFA members, and my husband and I both work full time in agriculture. If you know me personally, you may have heard me say "In God we trust, all others – bring data". If you are unaware, the economics of farming this year are especially difficult. Almost every significant commodity in Oregon is in a financial downturn, with many farmers questioning how they can break even this year – or if their operation can survive into 2026. It is especially difficult. Included in this request is specific support for applied economists who will focus on addressing questions specifically critical to their region. In Eastern Oregon, the focus will be on evaluating the feasibility of new crops, and costs of production and land management for crops like wheat, potatoes and cattle. Rural Oregon especially but I would argue all of Oregon, relies heavily on agriculture and if we want a vibrant future for our communities, our farmers and ranchers will need sound data to make future farming decisions which is why I'm here in support of the OSU Statewides request, which is a \$23.5 million increase to sustain current operations, bolster capacity to meet critical needs and make strategic investments in support of a more resilient future for Oregon communities, food systems and natural resources.

Thank you.