



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 4, 2026

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, Smith, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed \$1.1 million in cuts to agricultural education and Oregon FFA funding. These reductions would remove more than 70% of Oregon FFA's state support and jeopardize opportunities for over 15,000 students in more than 120 chapters across Oregon.

I grew up in a farm family, I'm raising my own kids in Oregon agriculture, and I see every day how critical it is that we prepare the next generation to step into these roles. Agricultural education and FFA are not extras; they are high-impact career and technical education pathways that connect classroom learning to real jobs in agriculture, natural resources, science, and technology. State dollars now at risk help cover student dues, classroom materials, leadership development, and scholarships and summer learning programs that many families could not afford on their own.

Over the past six years, state investment has helped FFA membership and events grow by more than 50%, showing strong student demand and clear return on investment. These programs build workforce-ready skills—public speaking, problem-solving, leadership, and technical competencies—that our agricultural economy and broader workforce desperately need, at a time when Oregon agriculture is already under pressure and losing farms each year.

I recognize the real budget pressures facing this committee, but in a multi-billion-dollar budget, the relatively small line for FFA, ag education, and CTE grants delivers an outsized impact for students, families, and communities in every region of the state. Cutting these dollars now would undo years of bipartisan work, hollow out programs that are difficult to rebuild, and send the wrong message to rural Oregon and to students who learn best through hands-on education.

I respectfully ask you to:

- Maintain full state funding for Oregon FFA and related agriculture education and CTE grants.
- Treat these programs as core education and workforce infrastructure, not expendable extras.
- Work with me and other legislators, educators, and industry partners to ensure long-term stability for agricultural education.

Thank you for your service and for considering my testimony. I urge you to keep Oregon's agricultural education programs strong for the next generation of students and for the future of our state.

Respectfully submitted into the record,

Shelly Boshart Davis
Oregon State Representative, District 15