

Senator Arnie Roblan
S-417, State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301



Representative Betty Komp
H-273, State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Senator Fred Girod
S-401, State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT ST NE, S-417
SALEM, OR 97301

Representative Jodi Hack
H-385, State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

April 22, 2015

Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
H-178, State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley,

A broad and diverse coalition with members who represent rural, urban, conservation, and natural resource production interests from across the state has worked together over the last 18 months to develop a comprehensive \$16 million funding proposal for the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs. The proposal includes \$5 million for the Extension Service, \$7 million for the Agricultural Experiment Station, and \$4 million for the Forest Research Laboratory.

The \$16 million increase was also recommended by the OSU Board of Trustees in a funding request it submitted to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) in March last year. The request is quite specific and is designed to meet the needs of both urban and rural Oregonians. The attached information outlines the activities to be conducted by approximately 40 full-time equivalent new employees distributed across the state. *The historic return-on-investment for each state general fund dollar devoted to the OSU Statewides has been \$10, resulting in a total return of \$160 million from the proposed increase.*

The \$16 million package for the OSU Statewides is incorporated in SB 657 and would be added to the current amount of \$104 million that was identified in the co-chair's budget framework. The Senate Education Committee unanimously approved the bill and it is currently awaiting consideration in the Ways and Means Committee.

While a number of possible mechanisms may be available to the Ways and Means Committee for financing the Statewides, our primary concern in writing to you is to ensure that the \$16 million package is fully funded to provide increases of \$5 million for the Extension Service, \$7 million for the Agricultural Experiment Station, and \$4 million for the Forest Research Laboratory.

Respectfully submitted,

SENATE MEMBERS

Arnie Roblan
Sara Adeler
Ale Bots
[Signature]
[Signature]
Jacob [Signature]
Ted Juciolli
[Signature]
Doug Whitsett
Alan Keller
Bill Hansell
[Signature]
[Signature]

[Signature]
Diane Rosenbaum
[Signature]
Jeff Barker
Thomas E. Panterucci Jr.
Jeff Kure
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

HOUSE MEMBERS

Jussica Vega Pederson

Cebha Boone

Kathleen J. Taylor

Ken Akhry

Brian Lee

Stacy

Jack

Andy Olson

Don Whisman

Mike

Bill Krumm

Betty Komp

Carl Mear

Walter

Kim

Pat

Carl Wynn

Susan McLain

Margaret Doherty

Juanita

Dail Whitsett

Joseph

Carol

Cheryl

~~John~~

~~John~~

~~John~~

~~John~~

Wally

Wally

Erin

Vir

John

John



Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs

Agricultural Experiment Station
Forest Research Laboratory
OSU Extension Service

The Statewide Public Service Programs are central to OSU's land-grant mission. Mandated by separate federal legislation, each relies on state, local, federal, and industry support. Through these programs, OSU addresses emerging issues important to communities, families, and industries throughout Oregon and they play an important role in creating and retaining rural jobs.

Last year, when the **OSU Board of Trustees** developed a funding request for the University, they recommended a \$16 million increase for approximately 40 new positions to power new and expanded initiatives that combine the strengths of all three Statewides. **The Governor's Recommended Budget** proposed an increase of \$3.3 million, which provides no funding or personnel for new or expanded programs. **SB 657**, which has received broad legislative support, *restores the \$16 million increase* to the Statewides' budget to address major challenges facing Oregon in **five key areas**:

1. **Technologies for Business Development and Value Added Manufacturing** – The Statewide Programs provide knowledge and outreach to grow resource-based, globally competitive industries in Oregon's rural communities. New positions will support development of new technologies that drive value-added agricultural, seafood, and forestry products that will create family-wage jobs in rural communities where they are most needed.
2. **Sustainable Management of Working Landscapes** – Much of Oregon's productivity comes from its forests, farms, and nearby ocean. New positions will work with landowners and industries to help sustain these working landscapes. They will create practical approaches to sustain at-risk species such as marbled murrelet and sage-grouse, eradicate invasive species, assure pollinator health, manage juniper, and support agricultural production from coast to high desert.
3. **Ensuring Water Quality and Quantity** – The Statewide Programs help rural and urban communities develop strategies to increase water availability and address water quality concerns. New positions will assess the relationship of water quality with specific agricultural and forestry practices. And they will assess the economic impact of changes to coastal water quality.
4. **Promoting Public Health, Food Safety and Security** – The Statewide Programs help to ensure that Oregon families have what they need to live healthy lives. New positions will address the integration of food issues, from breeding new crops and developing food safety practices, to teaching family nutrition and promoting community health.
5. **Educating the Workforce of Tomorrow: 40-40-20** – Excellence in education begins with Extension programs that foster youth development and a love of learning in pre-college students. New positions will focus on statewide research and Extension facilities to provide real-world learning experiences for students and will expand Oregon Open Campus to provide access to lifelong learning across Oregon.

Letter Signers

Page 2

Sen. Arnie Roblan
Sen. Sara Gelser
Sen. Alan Bates
Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Rep. Val Hoyle
Sen. Jackie Winters
Sen. Ted Ferrioli
Sen. Chuck Thomsen
Sen. Doug Whitsett
Sen. Alan Olsen
Sen. Bill Hansell
Sen. Rod Monroe
Rep. Tobias Read

Sen. Fred Girod
Sen Diane Rosenbaum
Sen. Michael Dembrow
Rep. Jeff Barker
Sen. Herman Baertschiger
Sen. Jeff Kruse
Sen. Tim Knopp
Sen. Kim Thatcher
Sen. Brian Boquist
Sen. Floyd Prozanski
Sen. Betsy Johnson
Sen. Chris Edwards
Sen. Lee Beyer

Senate: 11 Democrats, 12 Republicans

Page 3

Rep. Jennifer Williamson
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson
Rep. Deborah Boone
Rep. Kathleen Taylor
Rep. Ken Helm
Rep. Mike Nearman
Rep. Brian Clem
Rep. Shemia Fagan
Rep. Brad Witt
Rep. Jodi Hack
Rep. Andy Olson
Rep. Gene Whisnant
Rep. Sal Esquivel
Rep. Mark Johnson
Rep. Sherrie Sprenger
Rep. Bill Kennemer
Rep. Jeff Reardon

Rep. Betty Komp
Rep. _____
Rep. Rob Nosse
Rep. Chris Gorsek
Rep. Dan Rayfield
Rep. Brent Barton
Rep. Caddy McKeown
Rep. David Gomberg
Rep. Mike McLane
Rep. Wayne Krieger
Rep. Bill Post
Rep. Knute Buehler
Rep. Jim Weidner
Rep. Cliff Bentz
Rep. Paul Evans
Rep. Julie Parrish
Rep. Greg Smith

Page 4

Rep. Carl Wilson
Rep. Margaret Doherty
Rep. Gail Whitsett
Rep. Cedric Hayden
Rep. John Huffman
Rep. John Davis
Rep. Ann Lininger
Rep. Lew Frederick
Rep. Rob Nosse (duplicate)
Rep. Mike Nearman (duplicate)

Rep. Susan McLain
Rep. Duane Stark
Rep. Joe Gallegos
Rep. Carla Piluso

Rep. Greg Barreto
Rep. Vic Gilliam
Rep. Phil Barnhart
Rep. Dallas Heard

House: 27 Democrats, 25 Republicans