



March 2, 2017

Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
 Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
 Joint Committee on Ways and Means
 H-178, State Capitol
 Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Devlin and Representative Nathanson:

As you know, the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs – the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory – provide state-of-the-art research and outreach in all 36 counties in Oregon. The expertise and advice generated by scientists and extension agents continues to solve such real-world problems as pollinator health, water quality in onion crops, the impact of ocean conditions on Oregon’s oyster hatcheries, access to high-quality nutritional food, the ecology and potentially limiting factors of marbled murrelets, and many other environmental quality and economic development issues facing Oregonians across the state.

During the 2015 legislative session, after a year of activism by a broad coalition of advocates, the legislature approved a \$14 million increase for these programs. The resulting \$118 million funding level enabled OSU to hire some 40 new research and extension positions across the state to address significant challenges facing Oregon family farmers, low income families, and

Oregon's natural resources enterprises. This was a monumental step – reversing a 15-year decline when these vital programs were forced to eliminate positions and programs that served a diversity of Oregonians in all 36 counties in the state. The information garnered from the collaborative and expansive research will ensure that policies are based on the best scientific data available.

The Governor's recommended budget will have the effect of eliminating nearly 70 percent of the programmatic increases the legislature approved last session. Because most of these funds are used to cover personnel costs, the primary tool the Statewides have to manage their costs during budget reductions is through the elimination of positions.

SB 805 would enable the Statewides to maintain the same level of service by providing a \$9.4 million increase in general fund resources. We urge you to support this increase in the funding for the OSU Statewides.

We deeply appreciate the support you and your colleagues provided last session and look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months to make meaningful progress in a bi-partisan approach that addresses the needs of both urban and rural Oregonians in every corner of the state.

Sincerely,

Katie Fast, Executive Director
Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Jim Geisinger, Executive Vice President
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

Susannah Morgan, Chief Executive Officer
Oregon Food Bank

Jerome Rosa, Executive Director
Oregon Cattlemen's Association

Kristina McNitt, President
Oregon Forest & Industries Council

Dr. Patricia Scott, President
Southwestern Oregon Community College

Leonard Aplet, President
Oregon 4-H Foundation

Brent Fetsch, President
Northwest Farm Credit Services

Jeff Stone, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Nurseries

Amanda Dalton, Government Relations
Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers

Blake Rowe, Chief Executive Officer
Oregon Wheat Growers League

Joel Fischer, Senior Policy Analyst
**Oregon Business Association/Associated
Oregon Industries**

Phil Donovan, on behalf of
King Estate

Jennifer Dresler, Director of State Public Policy
Oregon Farm Bureau

April Snell, Executive Director
Oregon Water Resources Congress

Angela Crowley-Koch, Legislative Director
Oregon Environmental Council

Ivan Maluski, Policy Director
Friends of Family Farmers

Greg Miller, Public Affairs Manager
Weyerhaeuser Company

Tami Kerr, Executive Director
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association

Dr. Frank Toda, President
Columbia Gorge Community College

Dan Jarman
Oregon Winegrowers Association

Dr. Scott Campbell, President
Silvies Valley Ranch, LLC

Jim James, Executive Director
Oregon Small Woodlands Association

Jennifer Sirangelo, President & CEO
National 4-H Council

Ian Tolleson, Government Affairs Director
Northwest Food Processors Association

Debbie Crocker, President
Oregon Women for Agriculture

Jessica Nischik-Long, Executive Director
Oregon Public Health Association