



Office of the Board of Trustees  
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April 11, 2017

Co-chair Senator Rod Monroe  
Co-chair Representative Barbara Smith Warner  
Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St NE, Room H-178  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Monroe and Smith Warner and Members of the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee:

As Chair of the Oregon State University Board of Trustees, I am writing to urge your support for a \$100 million increase in the Public University Support Fund for the 2017-19 biennium (for a total of \$765 million). This level of support will achieve a comparable level of funding to the current biennium and avoid unaffordable tuition increases and detrimental program reductions. As a Board, we understand that you must make difficult choices when investing scarce state resources. Public funding for higher education has one of the best returns on investment for our state and one the State of Oregon needs for economic stability.

I am also urging you to provide a \$9.4 million increase in funding for OSU Statewide Public Service Programs – the Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Forest Research Laboratory. This amount of support is necessary to maintain continued service level for these vital programs, which serve the needs of Oregon family farmers, low-income families, and Oregon’s natural resources enterprises in all 36 counties of the state. OSU estimates that every state dollar invested in the OSU Statewides leverages nearly \$10 in economic benefits to the state. In the last legislative session, the Oregon legislature invested additional funds in these programs to support new positions and stimulate new research and Extension projects across the state. Continued support will protect this investment, ensuring the Statewides can continue to make important progress on strategic issues important to Oregonians.

It will take continued investments in Oregon’s public higher education institutions to address decades of funding cuts to public higher education and to keep tuition costs manageable for Oregon students. I urge you to support a \$100 million increase in Public University Support Fund and an additional \$9.4 million for the OSU Statewide Programs.

Thank you for your leadership in pursuing Oregon’s educational and economic aspirations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Reser". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Patricia Reser  
Chair

cc: President Edward J. Ray