



April 17, 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**

Scott Hayes, Chairman  
**Oregon Tree Farm System**

Will Wise, Chief Executive Officer  
**Oregon Beef Council**

Roger Beyer, Executive Director  
**Oregon Seed Council**

Bill Brewer, President & CEO  
**Oregon Potato Commission**

Polly Owen, Director  
**Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries**

Denver Pugh, Chairman  
**Oregon Ryegrass Commission**

Orin Nusbaum, Chairman  
**Oregon Tall Fescue Commission**

Zach Taylor, Chairman  
**Oregon Fine Fescue Commission**

John Kennel, Chairman  
**Oregon Clover Commission**

Austin Bingaman, Chairman  
**Oregon Mint Commission**

Jeff Malensky, Chairman  
**Oregon Blueberry Commission**

Donnie Blades, President  
**Oregon Seed Growers League**

Tim Butler, Chairman  
**Oregon Essential Oil Growers League**

Bryan Ostlund, Executive Director  
**Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association**