Kurt Schrader was elected to the U.S. House in 2008 to represent Oregon’s fifth congressional district, which includes OSU’s Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport and much of the Northern Willamette Valley. Schrader has served in public office for more than three decades, as a member of the Canby Planning Commission and the Oregon Legislature. In 1997, he won a seat in the state House and six years later was elected to the Senate, where he was immediately appointed co-chairman of the powerful Joint Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over taxation.

Schrader attended Cornell University where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Government in 1973; he received his veterinary degree from the University of Illinois in 1977. Before being elected to the U.S. Congress, he owned and managed the Clackamas County Veterinary clinic in Oregon City. Schrader still maintains his veterinary license and continues to farm organic fruit and vegetables on his family farm.

Schrader is a member of the House Agriculture Committee where he is Ranking Member of the Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee he has played a key role in reauthorization of the Farm Bill, legislation addressing U.S. agricultural and food policy. He’s also a member of the Committee on Small Business, where he serves on the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy, and Trade and the Subcommittee on Health and Technology. He is also a member of the Budget Committee. Schrader is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, which seeks to balance the budget and reduce government spending; he is currently Co-Chair for the Blue Dog’s Communications and Outreach Taskforce, Chair of the New Democrat Coalition’s Health Care Taskforce, and Co-Chair of the New Democrat Coalition’s Tax Reform and Fiscal Responsibility Taskforce.

Schrader has been a leading advocate to help Oregon farmers combat the spotted wing drosophila pest, which threatens Oregon’s nearly $100 million berry industry and $80 million in stone fruit crops. He supported OSU’s successful bid to create an Integrated Pest Management Program, a long-term systems-based environmentally and socially sound pest management program.

Schrader is dedicated to helping students afford a college education. In the 112th Congress he co-sponsored a bill to extend the 3.4% interest rate on Stafford Loans in order to prevent an increase that would trap students with larger loans when leaving school.

Schrader also collaborated with Oregon Reps. Greg Walden and Peter DeFazio to introduce legislation in February 2012 that would provide a long-term solution for funding critical government services, including education and law enforcement, in rural Oregon counties.

The plan, known as the “O&C Trust, Conservation, and Jobs Act” is designed to ensure stable, long-term funding for rural Oregon counties while simultaneously protecting old growth and other important locations. The bill successfully passed the House in September, 2013.

**Recent visits to OSU**

In October 2012, Rep. Schrader spoke at the grand opening of OSU’s new Animal Sciences Pavilion. He also visited OSU’s Food Innovation Center (FIC), located in downtown Portland, in August 2011, where he hosted U.S. Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D–California), Ranking Member of the Agriculture Committee’s Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry, to discuss the research underway at the FIC with an emphasis on federally funded projects and the Farm Bill reauthorization.