

Sen. Arnie Roblan Sen. Bill Hansell

OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

February 1, 2019

Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Co-Chair Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Co-Chair Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair Joint Committee on Ways & Means H-178 State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senators Johnson, Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield:

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 year to develop a comprehensive \$30 million proposal for the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs. The proposal includes \$16 million for the Agricultural Experiment Station, \$11.5 million for the Extension Service, and \$2.5 million for the Forest Research Laboratory, collectively known as the "OSU Statewides."

Following a clear demonstration of support from across sectors and across the state, the OSU Board of Trustees also recommended this funding increase to the Governor. The request is quite specific and meets the needs of both urban and rural Oregonians. The attached information outlines the activities to be conducted by approximately 57 full-time equivalent new and recovered 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 \$300 million from the proposed increase.

The \$30 million package for the OSU Statewides is incorporated in SB 257 and would be added to the 2017-19 legislatively approved budget of \$124.4 million. 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 \$30 million package is fully funded to provide increases of \$16 million for the Agricultural Experiment Station, \$11.5 million for the Extension Service, and \$2.5 million for the Forest Research Laboratory.

Respectfully submitted,

SENATE MEMBERS

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