



**OREGON MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION**

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Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair

Joint Ways and Means Committee

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court St. NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair

Joint Ways and Means Committee

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court St. NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley:

The Oregon State University Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Forest Research Laboratory—the “OSU Statewides”—are critical resources that support the well-being of all Oregonians. The Oregon Master Gardener™ Association is a non-profit organization, and has worked with and in partnership with Oregon State University Extension Service since 1985. The OMGA is concerned that the “OSU Statewides” are currently at risk due to the proposal to “flat-fund” them in the Governor’s Recommended Budget. This proposal will result in reduced services that benefit people, our economy and our environment. The proposed budget is disproportionate in comparison to the proposed seven percent increases for the other programs in the Oregon University System. Flat-funding these programs is particularly unfair because the Statewides cannot turn to other revenues, such as tuition, to help offset increased costs. **We urge you to add \$7 million to the OSU budget to recover funding for these critical programs.**

The Statewides are core elements of Oregon’s only Land Grant University and unique and integral parts of Higher Education and we respectfully urge you to treat the OSU Statewide Public Service Programs equitably with the rest of Higher Education.

The Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Laboratory are the only independent, knowledgeable sources of practical, on-the-ground research to grow high-quality food and fiber. They are the most trusted, credible source of information for farmers and ranchers in advanced production methods that protect our health and environment. The Extension Service also teaches hungry Oregonians how to cook low-cost nutritious food, works with schools to protect children’s health through nutritious food and integrated pest management, helps urban areas reduce their storm water pollution, helps

farmers and foresters protect our rivers, and engages thousands of Oregonians in volunteer service projects throughout the state.

We can't afford further cutbacks to the sole credible, independent source of information critical to supporting local economies and protecting our health and environment throughout Oregon.

We urge you to treat the OSU Statewides equitable, and prevent the loss of critical services to Oregonians around the state: Please recover \$7 million to the Oregon University System budget so these programs can continue to serve the people of Oregon.

Best Regards,

Marilyn Scheffler  
President, Oregon Master Gardener™ Association