

Senator Kate Lieber
Representative Tawna Sanchez
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways & Means Committee

RE: OSU Statewide Public Service Programs

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez,

Our coalition strongly supports Oregon State University's Statewide Public Service Programs—the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory. These programs serve all Oregonians by delivering research and education that solve real-world problems and strengthen communities.

The OSU Statewides are the foundation of OSU's land grant mission and are vital to Oregon's rural communities and natural resource industries. With a trusted presence in all 36 counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, they provide integrated research and outreach that drive economic growth and community resilience.

We are deeply concerned about proposed reductions of up to **7.1% (nearly \$14 million)** for the OSU Statewides under the Higher Education Coordination Commission's 5% reduction scenario. Cuts of this magnitude would disproportionately harm rural communities; reduce support for farms, forests, fisheries, youth, and families; and could lead to the closure of a research facility and loss of dozens of critical positions. These reductions would significantly shrink Oregon State's statewide research and Extension footprint.

State funding is essential. Reductions will strain longstanding state-federal-county partnerships and undermine programs that Oregon depends on. **The OSU Statewides cannot and should not take a disproportionate cut.**

We urge the Legislature to preserve Oregon's investment in these programs. They are deeply rooted in every county, supporting thriving agricultural and food systems, sustainable natural resource management, healthy families, and youth development through programs like 4-H.

Maintaining investment now is critical to avoid long-term damage to Oregon's economy and communities. These programs link cutting-edge research with education and career pathways for learners of all ages and should remain a priority for Oregon's future.

Thank you for your service to the state of Oregon. We recognize the fiscal challenges ahead, and we respectfully urge you to sustain investment in programs like the OSU Statewides that have significant impact for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration,