



Oregon Research Bounty Act

Shawn Donkin, Associate Dean for Research, College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University:

“Support for these research areas is critically important to the success of growers, ranchers, food processors and agricultural industries in Oregon. Many thanks to Senator Merkley for the bill to support efforts that are pivotal to creating solutions to key challenges for Oregon agriculture.”

Iain Macdonald, Director of TallWood Design Institute at Oregon State University, and Judith Sheine, Director of Design at University of Oregon:

“Oregon is at the forefront of mass timber design and manufacturing in the U.S. and, thanks to the continued support of Senator Merkley, our universities have been able to carry out pioneering research and development that is enabling our region to stay at the leading edge of this burgeoning field. We are already seeing these efforts pay off through creation of new well-paying rural and urban jobs and improved forest health and wildfire risk reduction.”

Matt Donegan, past chair of the Oregon Governor’s Wildfire Council:

“Climate change is expected to cause wildfire to double or triple over the next twenty years, imposing terrible threats to Oregon’s communities. We need to modernize our overall approach to wildfire management. Senator Merkley is securing the research funding needed to drive this modernization.”

Jeffrey Steiner, Director, Global Hemp Innovation Center at Oregon State University:

“There is a critical national need to expand domestic biobased manufacturing capacity and to reduce our reliance on oil and its use in producing plastics and to expand sustainable sourcing of building and other industrial materials. Thank you to Senator Merkley for the bill that will bring greater certainty to our continued funding that is helping make our region an even greater Green Economic Hub in the future.”

Dr. Francisco Calderon, Professor of Crop and Soil Science at Oregon State University:

“Dryland grain production in the Pacific Northwest depends on soil and water conservation to maintain profitable yields. Our research is evaluating solutions that conserve water, reduce weeds and plant diseases, and enhance soil fertility, all of which will ensure the continued success of dryland farmers in the region. We are grateful to Senator Merkley for the bill to give continuity to this important research.”

Dr. Elizabeth Tomasino, Associate Professor of Enology at Oregon State University:

“Prevention and mitigation of grape smoke exposure is critical for the long term success of the grape and wine industry in Oregon. Our research is actively creating solutions so that the grape and wine industry can be successful despite the many challenges associated with wildfires and ensure that consumers can always find and enjoy their Oregon wines. Thanks to Senator Merkley for working to continue opportunities for this important work.”

Keith Tymchuk, former Mayor of Reedsport, Oregon:

“Sudden Oak Death poses a real threat to the soft wood industry in southern Oregon. The US Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry (along with other partners) are doing great work in trying to eradicate this threat. The Bounty Act would provide critical funding to continuing this important effort.”

Jared M. LeBoldus, Associate Professor of Forest Pathology at Oregon State University:

“The invasive pathogen causing sudden oak death, is a major threat to the forest industry of SW Oregon. Research efforts are focused on improving management and developing resistant trees. Thanks to Senator Merkley for the bill to pursue more certainty to continue this important work.”

David Bohnert, Professor & Director, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center at Oregon State University:

“The unknown future of public land policies, anthropogenic development, climatic variability and associated effects on annual forage availability, and threatened and endangered species concerns, are just a few of the challenges facing livestock and natural resource managers. These challenges require development of precision livestock management strategies and tools that allow for economically efficient and environmentally responsive livestock production while maintaining/improving rangeland health, addressing wildlife habitat needs and other ecosystem services, and maintaining or enhancing local social networks. Thanks to Senator Merkley for the bill to pursue more certainty to continue this important work.”

Jana McKamey, Oregon Winegrowers Association Executive Director:

“Climate change is exacerbating disease and pest pressures, drought, wildfires, freezes, and other extreme weather events. Research is crucial to help winegrowers and winemakers mitigate and adapt to these challenges. Research funding secured by Senators Merkley and Senator Wyden has already yielded tools and information to better manage climate challenges, and we appreciate the effort to codify these investments into the future.”

Amanda Hoey, Chief Executive Officer, Oregon Wheat Growers League:

The sustainability of Pacific Northwest wheat production requires long-term research investments. Senator Merkley has been an advocate for these investments, supporting research being conducted by federal and state scientists in partnership with Oregon's wheat farmers. The Senator's introduction of the Oregon Research Bounty Act provides an opportunity to further accelerate essential research and secure the investments to address Resilient Dryland farming practices and soil health. We thank Senator Merkley for his leadership to secure funding for valuable research which recognizes and expands agricultural practices scientifically proven as a benefit to the economics of wheat farming and the environment.

David Bohnert, Professor & Director, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, Oregon State University:

"Demand for outreach around collaboratively-derived, science-based management frameworks that are accepted by a diverse array of stakeholders is in excess of current capacity to supply it; thus limiting the potential for science delivery and associated impact. Ongoing work by ARS and OSU faculty at OSU's Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, and their extensive partner network (including ag producers, federal and state land management agencies, multiple NGOs, state wildlife agencies, federal regulatory agencies, local and county government, and local conservation entities) has resulted in collaboratively-derived, science-based management frameworks that are accepted by a diverse array of stakeholders. Thanks to Senator Merkley for the bill to pursue more certainty to continue this important work."

Michelle Palacios, Administrator of the Oregon Hop Commission:

"The Oregon Hop Commission enthusiastically supports Senator Merkley's Oregon Research Bounty Act and the stable research funding it would dedicate to hop research in Oregon. The research funding will develop new public sector hop varieties that combine disease resistance, resilience to changing climatic conditions, and improved brewing quality that is critical to sustain production and meet demand for high quality hops. Additionally, the research will develop innovative solutions for disease management in hops and advance the understanding of abiotic stress and smoke exposure in hop production and processing. The Oregon Research Bounty Act will provide the essential research needed to assist hop growers in implementing USDA Climate Smart Farming practices to produce hops for brewers around the world."

