



Oregon
University
System

Office of the Chancellor
P.O. Box 751
Portland, OR 97207-0751
PHONE (503) 725-5700
FAX (503) 725-5709
<http://www.ous.edu>

September 7, 2012

The Honorable Ron Wyden
US Senate
221 Dirken, Senate Office
Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
US Senate
313 Hart, Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
US House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn, House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
US House of Representatives
2182 Rayburn, House Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
US House of Representatives
1502 Longworth, House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
US House of Representatives
314 Cannon, House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
US House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn, House Office Building
Washington DC 20510

RE: Sequestration Impact: \$33.2 million estimated reduction to Oregon's public universities

Dear Oregon Congressional Delegation:

As the chancellor and presidents of the seven campuses of the Oregon University System (OUS), we write with urgency about the crisis that sequestration would cause for Oregon's public universities and the State of Oregon. While some believe that a solution will be found close to the impending date of January 2013, the reality is that our institutions must plan for the long term viability of our campuses, and we cannot depend on the hope of last minute measures. We urge you to do everything you can to prevent sequestration from occurring.

If sequestration occurs, the Oregon University System expects the loss of approximately \$33.2 million in federal funds currently invested on our campuses and which are economic drivers for the State of Oregon. This estimated reduction amount is based on one year of actual expenditures so the reduction would be even greater over time, and it is based on the seven OUS institutions, not including Oregon Health & Science University. These federal funds are critical to advancing innovative research forward that can better prepare our country and world to address both today's and emerging challenges, and to supporting student aid programs which advance and protect college opportunity for Oregonians to acquire the work-ready skills and knowledge necessary to compete in today's economy and contribute to their communities.

The estimated \$33.2 million in reductions would include 8.4 to 9.5% decreases to federal funding awarded to Oregon's public university system through the National Science Foundation, Health and Human Services, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, NASA, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education Research and Student Aid programs (Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Work-Study), as well as reductions in other federal grants and appropriations, and the possibility of increased student loan processing fees for students receiving Stafford and PLUS loans. The impact of these sizable reductions would postpone, reduce, and in some cases halt important advancements in competitive research endeavors which are critical to our state and national economy and communities, and the success of students who rely on critical support programs to finish their degrees, propel their futures, and advance the futures of their communities and the nation.

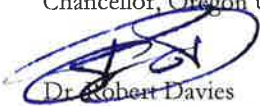
Our institutions depend on biennial budgets which are built around these funds, and the continued threat of sequestration will result in decisions in coming months to prepare for these major reductions should sequestration occur. Please let us know if you have further questions about the adverse impacts of sequestration on our campuses and in our communities throughout Oregon.

We thank you for your commitment to higher education and we urge you to do all that you can do now and in coming months to limit the possibility of sequestration and the severely detrimental impact it would have on our campuses and our state. Thank you.

Sincerely,



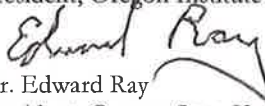
George Pernsteiner
Chancellor, Oregon University System



Dr. Robert Davies
President, Eastern Oregon University



Dr. Chris Maples
President, Oregon Institute of Technology



Dr. Edward Ray
President, Oregon State University



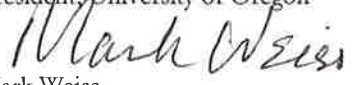
Dr. Wim Wiewel
President, Portland State University



Dr. Mary Cullinan
President, Southern Oregon University



Dr. Michael Gottfredson
President, University of Oregon



Mark Weiss
President, Western Oregon University