



OSU Federal Government Relations Overview and Activity Status Summary April 5, 2019

OVERVIEW

Federal Government Relations is focused on maintaining and promoting relationships between Oregon State University and federal stakeholders, including members of congress, federal government officials, and national partners. Our objective is to protect and advance OSU's interests in federal legislation, rulemakings, and agency programmatic investments. The annual appropriations process is a significant focus of our federal engagement.

Broadly, OSU's federal advocacy throughout the appropriations process prioritizes, but is not limited to, opportunities to secure direct funding for OSU research and capacity. In addition to OSU's engagement on issues of unique importance to the university, we also collaborate with peers, including national higher education and science organizations, on shared interests for the federal-university research enterprise and higher education, including federal financial aid and robust funding for the federal research agencies and competitive research programs.

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2019: APPROPRIATIONS FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

Federal fiscal year (FFY 2019) appropriations legislation was completed and enacted into law on February 15. Throughout the FFY 2019 appropriations cycle, OSU pursued funding objectives of direct importance to OSU's education, research, and extension missions. By working with members of the Oregon congressional delegation, congressional committees, and federal agencies, OSU secured a number of priority outcomes. Below is a brief overview of key outcomes secured that reflect new and/or direct opportunities for OSU's research enterprise:

- **NSF Regional Class Research Vessel (\$127M)** – Funding to construct a third RCRV
- **Office of Naval Research: Maritime Robotics Research (\$15M)** - Up to \$7M to OSU
- **Office of Naval Research: Navy Energy R&D for Wave Energy (\$7M)** - OSU collaborating with UW; funding to be secured by OSU TBD.
- **Department of Energy: Marine Energy R&D (\$8M)** – Funds to support R&D by the Pacific Marine Energy Center; funding to be secured by OSU TBD
- **USDA Dryland Farming Research (\$2M)** –OSU / ARS collaboration (Pendleton)
- **USDA Sudden Oak Death Research (\$1.2M)** – OSU / ARS collaboration (Corvallis)
- **USDA Forest Product Research (\$3.5M)** – \$1 Million to OSU for Tall Wood Design Institute
- **USDA Shellfish Genetics Research (\$500,000)** – OSU / ARS collaboration (Newport)

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2020: HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT FUNDING OBJECTIVES

Congress is presently in the early stages of preparing for FFY 2020 appropriations. Members are now considering stakeholder priorities, and committees are conducting oversight of federal agencies in preparation for drafting legislation later this spring. Working with the OSU research community, federal relations identified opportunities that are of shared importance to federal agencies, OSU, and OSU's stakeholders, and in which OSU has national leading scientific expertise and capacity. Below is a selection of new FFY2020 funding objectives that OSU is positioning to engage on:

New USDA/Agriculture Objectives

- Tree Fruit Post Harvest Quality Research (\$1.3M): Hood River, OR
- Shellfish Genetics and Breeding Research (\$2.5M): Newport, OR
- Hemp Production Research (\$5.0M): Corvallis, OR

New Department of Commerce / NOAA Objectives

- Ocean Observing Network -Newport Hydrographic Line (\$550,000): Newport, OR
- Climate Research for Vulnerable Coastal Communities (\$2M) – Oregon Sea Grant

New Department of Defense / Navy Objectives

- Advanced Technology Manufacturing (\$20M) – OSU ATAMI in coordination with University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Lab
- Autonomous Undersea Robotics (\$25M) – OSU in coordination with UW

New Department of Energy Objectives

- Marine Energy R&D - maintaining/increasing funding for R&D; new funds for construction of the offshore test facility – P MEC – TBD
- Nuclear Energy Micro Reactor Advanced Manufacturing R&D (\$5M) – OSU ATAMI, in coordination with the CTC Center for Advanced Nuclear Manufacturing

New Department of Interior USGS Objectives

- Magnetotelluric Survey (\$1.7M) – OSU faculty has overseen MT survey work of 2/3 of the U.S; this investment would initiate a 4-year program to survey the remaining unmapped area.

OTHER FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CURRENTLY IN FOCUS

Higher Education Reauthorization: Higher Education Reauthorization is expected to be a legislative objective for this congress. Congressional committees and the White House are in the early stages of considering policy priorities, and the Committees are holding hearings on key issues. OSU is working with our national higher education associations to identify key opportunities and threats. We will continue engaging with the Oregon congressional delegation on policy concerns and priorities as the landscape takes shape.

Academic Enrollment Integrity: In the wake of recent federal lawsuits regarding academic enrollment bribery, Oregon Senator Ron Wyden has stated intent to introduce legislation to preclude charitable deductions for donations made to universities by individuals who have family members who are or will be applying for enrollment in the university. OSU is engaging with the Senator's office and national organizations in shared concern for the potential impacts of such a proposed action on charitable giving to higher education. Next steps are not yet clear, and it's not likely that a proposal, if introduced, would be enacted.