

Testimony of  
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The Ohio State University  
to the  
**Finance Committee of the Ohio Senate**  
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Chairman Widener, members of the Senate Finance Committee, it is a pleasure to be here today to speak on behalf of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) and Ohio State University Extension (OSU Extension) which are key supports for **Ohio's \$107 billion agricultural industry**. These entities in the Board of Regents budget are part of The Ohio State University but are funded separately through these lines.

We are Ohio's only comprehensive food and agricultural research and extension program. As such, we are ideally positioned to lead Ohio in realizing progress in all significant aspects of programming in support of food and agriculture, the state's number one industry, which **provides more than one million jobs each year**.

The funding that you provide for the OARDC and OSU Extension line items is dedicated to expanding Ohio's regional economies and globally competitive industries by:

- Creating high-paying jobs,
- Fostering small business and economic development
- Leading innovation,
- Developing research,
- Commercializing research,

- Providing science-based education,
- Preparing a high quality workforce for the future
- Investing in the next generation through 4-H youth development Keeping Ohio positioned favorably in a global economy,
- Ensuring our natural resources and environment are protected, and
- Continuing to produce an abundant supply of safe, healthy and affordable food.

In our ongoing efforts to provide cutting-edge and broad-based research and technology development, OARDC operates under the direction of Dr. Steve Slack, who is here with me today.

With faculty at both OSU's Wooster and Columbus campuses, there are also ten outlying OARDC research stations across the state, allowing for site-specific studies in response to the diverse needs of Ohio citizens.

While the scientists and researchers at OARDC work tirelessly to conduct advanced research and develop new technology, it is the OSU Extension component of our college, under the direction of Dr. Keith Smith, also with me today, that links this vital research to improve communities, businesses, farms and the lives of individuals, youth and families through locally-based educational programs and applied research initiatives.

Located in all 88 of Ohio's counties, OSU Extension educators live and work in the communities they serve. Through the day-to-day interactions with their respective communities, delivering targeted programs and tapping the resources of the national land-grant system, these educators are listening and learning about new and pressing issues being faced by citizens in every section of our state. This interaction drives the

research and innovation cycle so that we continue to meet the needs of Ohio's citizens and its agricultural industry.

With the time available today I will share only a few examples of the impact we have on Ohio's economy:

Through OSU Extension's Business Retention and Expansion Initiative (BR&E), Extension has worked with more than 140 Ohio communities since 1986 to build jobs and improve the business environment. In the past five years alone, BR&E is credited with creating 897 new jobs and retaining 1,365. That accounts for \$86 million in personal income generated.

There are many success stories as a result of BR&E – such as Van Wert County, where Extension has helped build community partnerships that created 690 new jobs and retained 900 existing jobs over the last 10 years. In Fayette County, BR&E involvement laid the groundwork for attracting more than \$80 million in investment and creating 764 jobs, resulting in a 31% increase in manufacturing employment. In Gallia County, BR&E findings were instrumental in awarding a \$61 million highway project; and in Auglaize County, BR&E efforts helped a business expansion, reinvesting \$2 million in the county, adding 22 new jobs and \$286,000 a year in payroll increases.

The dynamic work of OARDC in targeting AgBioscience growth is paying significant dividends, both for the institution and for the State of Ohio:

- OARDC sponsored research grew 23.2% between 2004 and 2008 (increasing from \$19 million in 2004 to \$23.4 million in 2008). NOTE: This grew to \$28.2 million in 2010 (48.4%).
- Achieving a 64% growth rate in funding in the applied and commercially oriented “non-federal research funding” category between 2004 and 2008.
- Producing innovations that generated 57 invention reports and 22 patent applications since 2004.

More than 600 R&D projects are performed per year making a difference by outcomes including sustaining growth in Ohio's \$11.1 billion food processing sector via the development of new functional food products, advanced ingredients and packaging technologies; and generating a potential \$22 million savings in the Ohio horticulture industry and minimizing environmental impact through development of biocontrol fungicides used rather than chemical fungicides. An independent study by the Battelle Technology Partnership Practice in 2009 indicated that the value of OARDC research across all agricultural sectors exceeds \$1 billion annually.

Other examples of impact:

- OARDC's competitive grants program (SEEDS) generates **\$5 for every state dollar invested**
- OARDC **soybean genetics research has brought \$191 million and 4,030 jobs into Ohio's economy**, according to calculations by Battelle
- A survey of more than 7,000 readers of Extension's CORN (*Crop Observation and Recommendations Network*) newsletter, including farmers and crop consultants, reports

**increased income of \$10 million per year** due to increased yields or reduced expenses.

- In 2010, nearly 329,000 Ohio youth participated in Extension's 4-H Youth Development programs and clubs; **kids who participate in 4-H are 1.6 times more likely to attend college than peers in other youth organizations.**

Thank you for this opportunity to present information on these two critical line items, OARDC and OSU Extension. Dr. Slack, Dr. Smith and I are willing to answer questions at this time.

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