

## LEGISLATIVE LETTER: STATE SALARY POOL

Mail your letter from your home address or from a personal email address to the State Capitol:  
[Rep. or Sen. Name]  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Visit: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/> to find your legislator or to visit their website.

Representative Bob Jenson 900 Court St. NE, H-480 Salem, OR 97301 rep.bobjenson@state.or.us	Senator David Nelson 900 Court St. NE, S-206 Salem, OR 97301 sen.davidnelson@state.or.us
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Dear [Senator or Representative],

As [a faculty member/student/staff member, etc.] and a strong supporter of higher education in Oregon, I am writing today to ask for your support to release funds allocated to the State Salary Pool.

During the 2007-09 Session, legislators like you stepped up and supported investing in Oregon's future through the state's public universities and the Shared Responsibility Model. Now more than ever, Oregonians have access to higher education.

At Eastern Oregon University, we have been working hard to take advantage of this reinvestment, and the results are remarkable. Eastern is in the midst of a turnaround, with a new drive and spirit that is increasing enrollments and building retention across the state. The new student financial aid model and support for salaries are driving forces behind our renewed efforts.

Releasing the salary funds means that EOU and other Oregon University System schools can continue their work in providing access to Oregonians, and keeps higher education affordable for all students. With all committed funds being made available to state agencies, everyone receiving general funds are playing on the same field.

EOU in particular would have to absorb approximately \$1.2M in salary package increases, previously negotiated in good faith, believing that funds would be available. Eastern is just now moving its fund balance to within State Board of Higher Education-established guidelines of between 5-15%. Expending these funds further reduces our fund balance and again places the University in a precarious financial position and out of compliance with Board policies.

Increasing tuition costs an additional 6 percent, on top of the existing cap of 3.4 percent, disenfranchises all OUS students, and in particular students at EOU, where we serve more low-income and first-generation students. Anticipated effects are more students not choosing to attend college, current students opting to stop-out, and more pressure placed on students to take on additional debt.

On behalf of students, faculty, staff, and the communities we serve, I encourage you to vote in favor of releasing funds in the State Salary Pool.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your home address]