



TO: HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
FROM: KASANDRA GRIFFIN,
POLICY MANAGER FOR FOOD AND SCHOOL HEALTH
UPSTREAM PUBLIC HEALTH
DATE: MARCH 11, 2013
RE: IN SUPPORT OF SB 456

My name is Kasandra Griffin. I am the Policy Manager for School Health at Upstream Public Health, a statewide nonprofit organization focused on improving the health of Oregonians.

I am here today to testify in support of SB 456.

Upstream Public Health has been advocating for Farm to School and School Garden programs since 2006. We believe that Oregon's children, farmers and processors all benefit when Oregon products are served in schools, and we are happy to say that many people agree with us.

We **also** believe that our seniors area another important, underserved, and often-hungry segment of our population, and that providing farmers market vouchers to seniors is another great way to help lots of Oregonians at once.

In 2011, Upstream Public Health worked with OSU Economist Bruce Sorte on a study of the impacts of Farm to School programs. One of the things he found is that every dollar spent on foods produced or processed in Oregon had an economic multiplier of 1.67. If the same math applies here, then that would mean the proposed \$400,000 investment in seniors would have over a million dollars impact on Oregon's farmers and rural communities... which suffer from hunger and poverty of their own.

So on behalf of the seniors, the farmers, and Oregon's rural communities, I urge you to support SB 456.