

From: Trudy Toliver
To: [JWMHS Exhibits](#)
Cc: pkennedy-wong@oregonfoodbank.org
Subject: Please maintain FDNP funding
Date: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 11:34:37 AM

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services:

Oregon's small family farmers work incredibly hard to offer a bounty of products to citizens of our state. **Cutting funding for the Farm Direct Nutrition Program will hurt two vulnerable sectors of our state: low income neighbors and family farmers who rely on direct sales.**

Instead, put healthy fresh food on the plates of low income neighbors and economic vitality on the family farm - **just by restoring \$300,000 to the Farm Direct Nutrition Program for this biennium.**

Please maintain current levels of funding for families participating in WIC (\$200,000) and low-income seniors (\$100,000).

Everyone is better off when Oregonians have access to fresh produce grown by local farmers. We see it every day at our farmers markets. Often we get calls in the office from moms and grand moms looking for a farmers market to spend their FDNP checks. They are so please to have these funds and to spend time at the farmers market. **Their bellies and spirits are brightened.**

Farmers have a lot of hoops to jump through; one of them is to register to accept FDNP checks. Portland Farmers Market and most farmers markets in our state **require our growers to accept the vouchers. Please make it worth their effort. That additional \$300,000 leverages a lot for farmers and families too.**

In 2015, Oregon farmers earned \$1.16 million in Farm Direct sales to seniors and WIC families.

If funding is not restored

- 9,650 fewer WIC participants would be served per year.
- Over 2,400 fewer low-income seniors would be served per year.
- Hundreds of Oregon farmers will see lower sales per year.

Thank you for reading this and in advance for restoring \$300,000 to the FDNP funds.

Gratefully,
Trudy Toliver

Trudy Toliver, Executive Director

Portland Farmers Market and Farmers Market Fund

240 N. Broadway, Suite 129 | Portland, OR 97227 | 503.241.0032

portlandfarmersmarket.org | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

