



House Bill # 2038: Oregon Farm to School Grant  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
February 14, 2017

Introduction:

- Hello Representative Clem, members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. I am Rick Sherman, the Farm to School/School Garden Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Education, and manage the Farm to School Grant.

Thank you for the opportunity for me to provide you with some information of the progress of the Farm to School Grant

Background:

- For the **Oregon Farm to School Grant for reimbursement of Oregon Grown or Processed Food**, we are on target to have all of the funds spent at the end of this biennium.
- 144 districts opted in this school year; students attending these districts represent 90% of all lunches served in the state.
- 263 TONS of Oregon grown or processed produce were claimed by Oregon school districts.
- For the **Oregon Farm to School Competitive Grant for Food-, Ag-, or Garden-Based Educational Activities in the School District**: school districts, nonprofit organizations and commodity commissions/councils partnered with 30 school districts across Oregon.
- We have many stories that other folks will share that emphasize the work that is being done with this grant

Issue:

- Demand: The Demand is greater than the funds available. Many school districts have demonstrated that they can be successful in utilizing the grant funds with little extra effort when trained properly. Here are just a few districts that have done an outstanding job in utilizing their funds quickly while sourcing innovative Oregon food:
  - Bethel SD, Eugene: a leader in the farm to school movement who has set the standard for sourcing Oregon grown and processed food in their meals. Sourcing items like Beef, ingredients for scratch-made food, and grains from Camas Country Mills for baked items.
  - Lebanon SD: Another leader in the farm to school movement over the years that is very connected with the education grant as well as the procurement grant. Focusing of fresh fruits and veggies.
  - Umatilla SD: A good example of a very remote school district that was able to source Oregon grown food that was previously unavailable to schools in the area.
  - Bend-LaPine SD: Has done many innovative things with grant funds over the years, even processing their own pork with FFA students!

- Portland Public SD: has worked with large-scale operations to source Oregon grown fruit for all of their students.

Legislation:

- The legislation as it stands maintains the current program, enabling Oregon students to continue to make the receive Oregon grown and processed food in their meals.

Fiscal:

- 2% of the grant is accounted for administration of the grant, enabling us to maintain reporting and assistance with management of the grant.
- This grant results in decreased costs to schools, by reducing their food costs that would normally purchase food with out of their food budget.

I've included two maps in your files that show the locations of the school districts taking advantage of the grant, and I'm available for any other questions you may have about the management of the program.

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