

Dear Chair Clem and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

I am a constituent in Oregon, and I'm writing to ask you to support HB 2038, to preserve funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden program. This bill is being heard in the House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday, February 14th. I am asking you to do everything you can, through your committees and your caucus, to ensure passage of this bill and preservation of this important program.

This program is important to me because it helps kids, farmers, and Oregon's economy, all at once. I am currently the Food Service Director in Salem-Keizer School District and we have used the funds to purchase directly from Oregon agricultural businesses like Truitt Family Foods, Curry and Company, Walter Wells and Sons, Suri and Son Farms and others. I would like to continue to expand the Oregon business list we use over the next biennium and this funding really helps us make that become reality.

Our districts school gardens and agriculture programs have also grown through the use of competitive grants from funding of this program. These are very important programs to keep growing, I look forward to the day where we have a full circle agriculture to plate experience in the district, which means students grow it and we serve it. This funding is very important to that process.

Thank you for your time,

Dave Harvey

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