

## **Wheeler Derrick**

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**From:** scott thiemann <scottthiemann@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 11:17 AM  
**To:** Rep Smith D  
**Cc:** HAGNR Exhibits  
**Subject:** in support of HB 2038

To Representative Dave Brock Smith and the Members of the Committee:

I am a constituent, and I'm writing to ask you to support HB 2038, even if only at its present level of funding, for Oregon's Farm to School and School Gardens program. This bill is being heard in the House Ag Committee on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. I realize that we are at a difficult time budget-wise at the state level, but I am asking you to do everything you can to ensure passage of this bill and preservation of this important program.

In the several short years that I have been involved and have seen school gardens used by the kids and teachers in Curry, I have been impressed with the ripples of support from the community and the learning and changes in diet that have been realized as a result of these programs. Kids are definitely eating more fresh vegetables as a result of the dedication of the folks involved. And so many are enthusiastic to have the opportunity to being in the gardens learning.

This resource is especially important in a county where the poverty level is so high among younger people. There are proactive steps being taken in dealing with issues of food availability while at the same time, in a society where obesity is becoming the norm, it is moving kids forward in how and what they eat. Kids are getting hands-on experience and even exercise in a society where sitting in front of the computer and television is now averaging over 10 hours per day.

Your support in the past has provided funding for activities in the school such as taste testing, cooking classes, and even field trips as well as ongoing active learning in the gardens. The financial support has helped fund Cathy Boden and the

Foodshed program throughout our county and paid for many things, including the benches, hydroponics and numerous other materials now part of the new learning space in the hoop house purchased by funding from the OSU Master Gardener Association.

The funding from the legislature in supporting the Farm to School Program has been a huge part of the success of making this work take place and I ask you for continuing in making this funding available in furthering the education and the support to our local farmers that this funding has made possible. Thank you for your support!

Scott Thiemann

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