



House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE, Room 347  
Salem, Oregon 97301

February 13, 2017

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

On behalf of the Emerald Fruit and Produce, I am writing to express *our strong support for HB 2038*, the Farm to School Bill, and to request your support for the bill.

HB 2038, the Farm to School Bill, would provide funding, in the form of grants administered by Oregon Department of Education, to reimburse school districts for their purchases of Oregon grown and processed foods and for food-based, agriculture-based or garden-based educational activities.

We are based in Eugene, Oregon and serve Lane County and the surrounding area. On a daily basis our company supplies fresh produce to local schools, hospitals and other care facilities as well as many restaurants and grocery stores that help feed our community.

Emerald Fruit & Produce Co. has been serving the local community since it was founded by Leighton Herbert in 1962. Because Emerald Fruit & Produce Co. is a locally family owned and operated business we recognize the importance of our local economy. We understand the role that local agriculture has on us and our community. We believe that supporting local farms not only benefits us, but our community as a whole. Throughout the local growing season we purchase as much locally grown produce as possible.

During the 2015-16 school year we sold a total of 141,594 pounds of Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables, valued at \$108,943, to schools in Oregon. During the same year schools spent \$39,000 of their ODE Farm to School Grant funds on Oregon-grown or processed fruits and vegetables purchased from our company.

We value this relationship with schools and the legislation benefits our company as well as the farmers we partner with. Please join us in supporting this very important legislation.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Herbert".

Dennis Herbert, Owner  
Emerald Fruit and Produce  
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