

Written Testimony for February 14, 2017 hearing on HB 2038 in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Economic benefit of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Grants during the 2015-2016 school year

With the state investment of \$1.6 million last school year, schools boosted the agricultural economy by purchasing \$15 million in Oregon products.

Schools continue to provide new and stable markets for Oregon farmers and food businesses.

- 16 districts opened new accounts with 1-5 Oregon producers
- 23 districts opened new accounts with 1-5 distributors offering Oregon products
- 9 districts opened new accounts with more than 20 distributors offering Oregon products

Oregon's smaller and larger businesses alike, benefit from the Farm to School Program, especially produce farmers and processors.

- Schools purchased produce (fruits and vegetables) from 74 Oregon companies, spending about \$2,400,000 in total.
- Schools purchased meat, seafood, or poultry from 27 Oregon businesses, spending about \$500,000 in total.
- Schools purchased dairy products like yogurts and cheeses from 15 Oregon dairy companies, spending about \$500,000 in total.

Submitted by:

Megan Kemple

Executive Director

Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network

541- 344-4329 (office)

megan@oregonfarmtoschool.org