

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

2/13/2017

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

My name is Katrin Dougherty and I am from Tigard, Oregon. I am the Program Director for a youth program called the Supa Fresh Youth Farm, which is a recipient of a School Garden Grant through the Oregon Department of Education Farm to School and School Garden program.

I am writing on behalf of the program in support of continuing funding for Farm to School and School Garden Programs in Oregon. **I ask you to support HB 2038, to preserve and expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden programs.** I would have liked to be there with you in person for the hearing but I wasn't able to make the trip.

This program is important to me because it helps kids, farmers, and Oregon's economy, all at once. As a recipient of a School Garden Grant and we are currently using the funds to staff, create and operate school garden educational programs that serve five Tigard and Tualatin schools, and over 1700 students and community members combined just in the last 8 months. This funding has allowed us to expand our youth program to serve an additional 1500 K-12th grade students in Tigard and Tualatin schools that have a high percentage of students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches. We have had a wonderful response from students, parents, schools, and the community toward this addition to our program.

In the program low-income, at risk students from Kindergarten through 12th grade get the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning experiences in topics such as nutrition, agriculture, science, job skills, leadership, as well as develop lasting connections with their community. The number of services and community connections that have been made possible are far more than can be described in just one letter. ***I encourage you to contact me to learn more about the Supa Fresh Youth Farm. We would love to show you the good work we are doing with our School Garden funds.***

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

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