

2/14/2017

Oregon House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee  
Oregon State Capitol, Hearing Room D  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Clem and Members of the House Agriculture Committee;

My name is Suzanne Kreder. My husband and I farm along with our son outside of Dayton, OR. I am a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Oregon Farmer and have lived all my life in Oregon.

Representative Clem I hope your family's orchards have survived this hard winter.

Our farm encourages this committee to support HB 2038 to preserve or expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden program. This program is important to small Oregon farmers like us. Our farm participates in Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden program by selling blueberries and blackberries to schools. We have sold fruit to local schools such as McMinnville and Dayton; as well as schools such as Scappoose, Medford, Tigard-Tualatin, Cascade, Centennial, and as far away as La Grande. We have had a total in gross sales of a little over \$22,000.

We would not be able to compete with large suppliers like Nature Ripe or Discolls, or distribution giants like Sysco, or Food Services of America without this program.

We feel it is important for Oregon students to know where their food comes from. This is important in building a lasting relationship with these young people who will soon become our future customers. As students, these young people will learn the importance of buying local and to maintain a local source of food; not only to keep their carbon footprint small but to see how their local suppliers grow and handle their food; not some faceless supplier but an actual person who grows and delivers healthy locally produced berries.

Our farm employs five full time employees and more during the summer harvest time. Our processor is a local small family owned and operated company that freezes our blueberries and blackberries in 30 pound cases. These cases are sent to a local cold storage facility until we sell them to the end users.

Hopefully, our end user will be local Oregon school lunch programs funded by HB 2038.

Respectfully submitted,



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