

Wheeler Derrick

From: dilafruz@votewilliams.org on behalf of Dilafruz Williams <dilafruz@will2020.org>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 6:28 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: Preserve Funding: Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Program

Dear Representative Clem and Esteemed Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I am writing to ask you to support HB 2038, to preserve and expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden program.

I am urging you to do everything you can, through your committees and your caucuses, to ensure passage of this bill and preservation of this important program.

As a professor of education and leading researcher, and a long-term garden educator, I have been involved in longitudinal research related to the academic benefits of these programs. 20 years of research shows us that gardens do make a positive difference academically in most subjects and especially in Science.

Please see the enclosed publication that has been quoted in Huffington Post, and in hundreds of academic Journals. Oregon is used as a successful example for the Farm to School and School Garden initiative. It is imperative that we motivate students in real-life learning through meaningful engagement.

Oregon is seen as a national and international leader for garden-based education. I was invited by Oxford University Press to write about garden-based education for a new *Oxford Encyclopedia of Education Research* ! The Encyclopedia is being launched in a month. This is an academic and valid field of education. And Oregon is at the forefront of this initiative for which you should be very proud. I know that the educators and children are.

Please do your best to give our schools, and especially our disenfranchised populations, hands-on academically strong education through farm to school and garden programs. And, let's keep them healthy.

I can be reached at [503-830-6071](tel:503-830-6071) cell. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Dilafruz Williams

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