



## **TESTIMONY**

### **House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**February 14, 2017**

#### **Oregon Farm Bureau Supports HB 2038**

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) is the state's largest grassroots agriculture association, representing 7,000 farming and ranching families in Oregon. OFB's mission is to promote the educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement of its members. Oregon's Farm-to-School programs are of interest to OFB members because they connect agriculture with students across the state.

Oregon is a leader in the Farm-to-School movement. These programs provide positive educational and health outcomes to Oregon students. In addition, much of the funding provides healthy, local food to schools. OFB has long promoted the use of domestic and locally produced farm products in Oregon's schools and supports efforts to maintain this program.

Unfortunately, after historic funding in the 2015-2017 biennium, Oregon's Farm-to-School program faces cuts in the next biennium. OFB urges the committee to move this bill forward to facilitate a discussion about the importance of maintaining these programs, including bringing food and agriculture education into Oregon classrooms.

OFB respectfully asks for your support of HB 2038 to help preserve Oregon's Farm-to-School and School Garden programs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.