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Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 20, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a Garden Educator with Growing Gardens. I am writing today to ask that you please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. **This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only are these funds critical for economic development in Oregon, but these funds also support Oregon schools in essential ways. During the pandemic, our organization has shifted to support schools as they have become vital lifelines for the communities that they are in. We are providing hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to families, sending children home with container garden kits to continue hands-on learning, and collaborating with teachers to provide the best distance education possible.

Children and families need all the support they can get right now. Outdoor spaces such as school gardens will be an essential learning space in the fall; and our educators are prepared to utilize our experience with outdoor teaching, community relationships, and connections with local businesses and farms to strengthen our communities.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Kat Barton  
Youth Grow Educator  
Growing Gardens, Portland OR  
[kat@growing-gardens.org](mailto:kat@growing-gardens.org)



# Santiam Canyon School District 129J

Post Office Box 197  
150 SW Evergreen St.  
Mill City, Oregon 97360  
Office (503) 897-2321

Todd Miller, Superintendent  
Yvonne Hanna, Business Manager  
Nichole Cooper, AP & Payroll  
Lisa Follis, District Secretary

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a school nutrition staff with the Santiam Canyon SD in Mill City, Oregon. I am writing on behalf of myself and the Santiam Canyon SD 129 J.

I am writing because of my concern about the talks of cuts to the Farm to School Grant Program. We are a small area and our student base is just over 500 students. We are in an economically challenged rural area and most families in our area have limited income. Our school has been recipients of the grant for the past two year. With the grant we have been able to not only provide fresh local fruits and vegetables to our students we are able to provide education on food choices helping us to give our students the knowledge of healthy eating which helps ensure a better future for our students. The grant allows us to purchase fruits and vegetables that are fresher because they are purchased locally. While the grant helps our students it also helps our local farmers sell their product. This program is extremely important to help us provide fresh Oregon fruits and vegetables to our students but also helps in the economy.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Santiam Canyon School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, sex or age in providing or access to benefits of education services, activities and programs in accordance with Title VI, Title VII, Title IX and other civil rights or discrimination issues; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the American with Disabilities Act.

The following has been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements and may be contacted at the Santiam Canyon School District office for additional information and/or compliance issues; Title II Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator: Director of Special Programs, 150 SW Evergreen St./PO Box 197, Mill City, OR 97360, (503) 897-2321



Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a program assistant with Mudbone Grown and I am writing on behalf of myself .

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Funding for the farm to school is important to us and our community for many reasons. To get kids engaged at a young age to the garden and to the food system at large is so important, especially now. It is not just about being in the garden, but being outdoors, learning tactically and through different modes of learning is beneficial for the children. For some, this is the only connection they have to a garden. The programs that exist to help with garden education are extensive in Oregon, and as someone who isn't from Oregon originally, the reality that this exists is amazing and would be a detriment if it went away. More emphasis on alternative learning needs to be addressed and this is one that exists already. It only needs to be enhanced not taken away.

These resources are needed now more than ever.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastang* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm to School Grant Programs are maintained at some level, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Sara Cross, Mudbone Grown, Portland

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Date 7-21-20

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am the Beaverton School District Nutrition Services Purchasing Agent and I am writing to ask you to do all you can to protect the funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's wellbeing.

As the Nutrition Services Purchasing Agent, I am uniquely positioned to see the benefits of the Farm to School Grant on our farmers and children. Using the Farm to School Grant we've been able to purchase products we normally would not be able to afford. This summer alone we've purchased fresh strawberries, organic cherries and hamburgers made from Oregon grown beef all served through our summer food program. And last school year, before and during the closure, we were able to provide all 40,000+ children in the District the opportunity to have locally produced tamales, organic apples, organic pears and a number of other items.

If funding for the grant is eliminated or reduced this will have a significant impact on the Oregon produced products we purchase and offer to the children in the District and will also negatively the ability of the farmers and producers of Oregon to continue to provide quality Oregon products.

Respectfully,

*Daniel A. Kolp*

Daniel Kolp  
Beaverton SD  
Nutrition Services Purchasing Agent

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 21, 2020

Re: Farm to School Grant Funding

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am the Administrator for Nutrition Services for the Beaverton School District. I am writing to encourage you to please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. Many school districts, including Beaverton School District, are relying on Farm to School funds to help us provide necessary food for the meals we will provide students for the coming school year.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and support of local business, farmers, and producers. We have used our Farm to School Grant funds to help support local minority owned businesses, small start-up businesses and family farms across Oregon. These resources are needed now more than ever.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm to School Grant Programs are maintained at some level, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you.

Charity Ralls, MS, RDN  
Administrator for Nutrition Services  
Beaverton School District

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

07/21/2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a chef, baker and educator with Rogue Valley Farm to School.

I teach culinary preparation to K through 12 children in a farm setting.

During my time doing this work, I have seen the incredible engagement and empowerment of our children in this outdoor classroom.

They become interested in fresh, tasty, healthy, food and how it is produced, come up with strategies to grow crops; analyse soil biology and speculate about it's micro-organisms; watch pollinators and farm animals at work; complete tasks to learn about natural systems, prepare and share lunch and so much more.

They gain so many skills from this program,.

From learning to work together to achieve a common goal; to being able to prepare and dishes from fresh whole ingredients they dig themselves.

They take these skills home to share with their families.

Many times, we encounter children who feel restless and cooped up, for whom disruption has become a patterned response to school, who start to relax and focus in the stimulating environment of the small farms who host our outdoor classrooms .

We are performing valuable educational reform that works.

It supports and engages more children, who currently are not well served in traditional or online learning modes.

In addition, children being left behind by overburdened classrooms and norms of schooling are increasing.

You can look at the state-wide grades since the advent of online-only learning and readily agree.

State of Oregon educational statistics show most children failed in 2020.

This is an unprecedented failure.

Dear Co-Chairs, Frederick, McLain and Members of Committee,

As a Mom of a student in an Oregon Public School, Concerned Citizen, Outdoor Educator and Regenerative Gardener I, strongly, urge you to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant program.

This funding is more important than ever and is a win, win in numerous ways. This program supports healthy food for Oregon's students. It supports local farmers, which supports the whole community financially, educationally and by the availability of local and regional food.

This is an incredible collaboration that has been and is successfully supporting an authentically healthier community of students.

On a more personal note, because our work has been cut during the covid crisis, we have relied on the weekly boxes of delicious, healthy, local food. We are so very grateful.

Please continue funding a program that has so much benefit to so many!

Thank you for your deep consideration,

Kathleen LaFleur-Fleming  
Phoenix, Oregon

**Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:**

I am a teacher with Kalapuya High School in the Bethel School District #52. I am writing on behalf of myself and the Bethel Farm which exists as a school district farm within the Bethel School District.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. The Bethel Farm is an educational program that provides hands-on learning to students from elementary to the high school level. In addition, the farm produces healthy produce for students and the community by growing food for school lunches and providing to families in need through the Produce Plus Program. Much of the Bethel community in which our students and families live is designated as a food desert by the USDA, so the need for fresh, healthy food is of utmost importance. The funding that the Bethel Farm receives from the Farm to School Grant Program is vital to its continued existence and ability to provide these services to our community.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. The Bethel Farm provides a hand-on learning experience opportunity that enables students to learn in the "outdoor classroom" thus allowing for a smaller population of students learning indoors at any one time. Additionally, the farm operates the Produce Plus Program which distributes food to local community members thereby reducing the financial strain caused by needing to spend money in order to keep food on the table. Many of our families have lost their jobs or have had their hours cut during this crisis, and the funds provided to keep our program running provides a measure of economic relief.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Richard Dambrov  
Kalapuya High School Teacher/Bethel Farm/Bethel School District  
Eugene



# FRY FAMILY FARM

Certified Organic

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P.O. BOX 1014 / TALENT, OR 97540 / PHONE: 541.535.8044 / FAX: 541.535.8044 / FRYFAMILYFARM.ORG

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a parent and a second generation farmer with Fry Family Farm. I'm writing on behalf of myself and the entire team at Fry Family Farm.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

As a mother of 2 small children our family has benefited directly from the amazing programs and education the Farm to School program has brought into our schools. We also allow are children to eat school lunches because I know they will be receiving heathy meal option! At a time of need for so many families I feel like this should be the last program loosing funding.

Fry Family Farm has been selling to schools for over seven years, since 2012. During that time, we have become reliant on our sales to local and regional schools. We were one of the first farms in Oregon to be accepted into the DoD Fresh/Unprocessed Fruit & Vegetable Pilot Program. Today we sell to over 25 schools and six school districts including: Medford School District, Phoenix/Talent School district, Ashland School District, Central Point, Eagle Point and Grants Pass School District. In addition, we have worked with other local farms to solve some shipping logistics for school procurement.

We love the Farm to School Program and feel like this is such an important program for farmers to participate in. We have been advocating for this program to many local farms, schools and the community for a long time. Teaching younger people how to make healthier food choices is crucial to both their health and the health of the farming community. Increasing the awareness of local foods and seasonality available foods at a young age will help them make better choices in buying food as they get older. This has been a great opportunity for us and we are excited to expand, because getting nutritious local foods to kids is the most important thing we do. Increasing our production school makes us feel good about the future. As a small farmer we would be devastated if this program was to loose funding.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. We will be sending our kids back to school in the fall along with many other family. I was relieved to know they would receive outdoor, hands on Farm to School education. If this isn't an option it is just going



# FRY FAMILY FARM

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to put more stress on both the teachers and the kids. Our future depends on helping the youth and these programs are a huge part of that.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service,

Amber Fry  
General Manager  
Fry Family Farm  
541-301-0842  
Amber@fryfamilyfarm.org



## **Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means**

**July 21, 2020**

### **Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:**

I am the Executive Director of Adelante Mujeres, a non-profit organization providing holistic education and empowerment opportunities to low-income Latina women and families in Washington County to ensure full participation and active leadership in the community. I am writing on behalf of our entire organization, our Early Child Education families, and the farm businesses we support.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Nearly one in five Hispanic children (17%) under 18 in Washington County lives in poverty compared to one in twenty-five (4%) of their white classmates (Washington County Issues of Poverty, 2019). Conditions of poverty have a compounding impact on the health outcomes of everyone in the family. People of color are experiencing higher rates of hunger, food insecurity, and lack of access to green spaces and healthy foods. At Adelante Mujeres, we serve over 100 infants and children annually in our Early Childhood Education program. These children rely on the meals served at school for adequate nutrition and parents value the opportunity their children have to connect with the natural environment and growing their own food.

Beyond the Early Head Start and Preschool programs, we also offer a Chicas Youth Development Program which serves 700+ girls in public schools across the county, Adult Education, a Sustainable Agriculture program to support Latinx farmers achieve their business goals, and we manage the Forest Grove and Cornelius Farmers Markets. We see how vital Oregon Farm to School funding is to providing children with healthy foods, parents with the assurance that their children are receiving nutritious meals, and that local farmers are valued as key contributors to our community food systems.

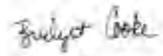
This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

As families plunge deeper into poverty and scramble to make ends meet, school lunches and gardens might be one of the few safety nets for their children. The Latinx community is resilient and continues to contribute to the Oregon economy, playing a key role in pandemic recovery efforts. We believe that all families deserve the support of Oregon Farm to School programs to help their children live healthy lives, especially in these unprecedented times.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for Farm to School in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm to School Grant Programs are maintained at some level, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

In gratitude,



Bridget Cooke  
Executive Director, Adelante Mujeres  
Forest Grove, Oregon



## Nutrition Services

Anne Leavens, Supervisor | [anne.leavens@district6.org](mailto:anne.leavens@district6.org)  
Margaret Corbett, Secretary | [Margaret.corbett@district6.org](mailto:Margaret.corbett@district6.org)  
Phone | 541-494-6911

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a School Nutrition Director and I am writing on behalf of Central Point School District #6

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

Our Nutrition Program has been feeding our families since school was canceled in March; they rely on our healthy, nutritious, and locally sourced meals. We are currently purchasing directly from 12 different ranches, growers, businesses, and entrepreneurs in Oregon. This funding helps our meal program go beyond a typical school lunch and supports our community business and agricultural partners. This funding is very important to our program.

These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Anne Leavens, SNS  
Central Point School District #6  
Central Point, Jackson County



Pickled Planet LLC  
225 Water St, Ashland, OR 97520

To: Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the CEO/Founder of Pickled Planet, a value added food processor in Ashland Oregon. I am writing on behalf of the Rogue Valley Farm to School organization, and for all the farms, producers, children and staff who benefit so greatly from these programs. I have personally been involved in our local chapter since it began, as a volunteer that helped kids learn at a farm, and continue to participate via the products we provide for lunch programs.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Maintaining this funding ensures the legacy of healthy eating and understanding where food comes from, will continue to be available to Oregon's school children.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. I know you do not want to be responsible for basically destroying a valuable network of programs that help our children be healthy and wise.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Courtlandt Jennings  
Founder/President  
Pickled Planet LLC

# ASHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

**Samuel Bogdanove**  
*Superintendent*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Laurie Rooper**  
Director, Human Resources & Communication

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Director, Finance

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July 20, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am the chair of the Ashland School Board, and I am writing in support of funding for the Farm to School program. In our district, Rogue Valley Farm to School provides boxes of vegetables and fruit for children whose parents have lost their jobs due to COVID.

The ability for school children to be outside in school gardens is crucial right now as it is a safer place for them to learn.

Please protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Sincerely,  
Eva Skuratowicz, Ph.D.  
Ashland School District School Board  
Ashland, Oregon  
[eva.skuratowicz@ashland.k12.or.us](mailto:eva.skuratowicz@ashland.k12.or.us)



PO Box 12549 Portland, OR 97212 503-836-7879  
web [umiorganic.com](http://umiorganic.com) social [@umiorganic](https://twitter.com/umiorganic) tag [#inthenoodz](https://twitter.com/umiorganic)

July 21, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

Hello, my name is Lola Milholland, and I am CEO and co-founder of Umi Organic, a food business based in Portland, Oregon. I have had the incredible privilege of working closely with school districts around Oregon. We started working with schools after meeting Whitney Ellersick of Portland Public, who encouraged us to develop a whole grain rich yakisoba noodle. We developed a noodle we love specifically for Oregon schools featuring whole grains from Camas Country Mill in Junction City, Oregon. Portland Public Schools served our yakisoba noodles for the first time in May 2019 at all of its schools, and since then they've made us a regular part of their menu. We were even honored by national magazine Food Management in November 2019, when they named our collaboration with Portland Public one of the best school lunches in the nation.

Our noodles are now served in districts from Eugene to Ashland, Centennial to Central Point. We've manufactured around 19,000 pounds of whole grain noodles in that brief time.

Our yakisoba is a product of the investments Oregon has made to date in farm to school, which has created a rich network of relationships. We worked with ODA's Amy Gilroy and ODE's Heidi DuPuis to get grounded in the school food requirements. We worked with ODA's Food Innovation Center to make sure our noodles could be prepared smoothly by schools in ovens. Without the infrastructure and staffing you have put in place, we would never have had this opportunity. Do not extinguish your long-term investment now.

Here are the key reasons we would be devastated if farm to school shrinks:

- 1) Financial: Farm to School funding makes it possible for schools to afford our product. Without the funding we would lose a whole arm of our business.
- 2) Farming community and environment: We use organic Oregon-grown whole grains. Without this program, our local purchases will shrink. Our purchases are also an investment in organic acreage in our state.
- 3) Kid's health: Kids love these noodles, and lunch participation is high on yakisoba days. They are an amazing vehicle to bring not only whole grains but also vegetables into kids' diets, as schools often use equal parts veggies and noodles when preparing the dish. Kids never notice for their love of noodles!

- 4) Sense of purpose: Our work with schools is our greatest source of pride. We were in attendance the first time our yakisoba noodles were served in Portland at the Japanese Immersion School in southeast, and we heard students literally chant in excitement “ya-ki-so-ba.” There is nothing more meaningful to us than bringing Oregon-grown and -processed foods to all kids, no matter their family income. We cherish our relationships with nutrition directors and want to keep them alive.
- 5) Equity: More parents are out of work. More families face food insecurity. More Oregon wholesale food processors are struggling to find business and keep employees working. School lunch is a powerful tool to combat childhood hunger. Farm to school has the dual effect of bringing healthy food to kids who desperately need it and also supporting the economy around those kids.
- 6) Business growth: We have just developed a yakisoba sauce with members of Portland’s Japanese community. Our sauce features way less sweetness than the options currently available to schools. We would also manufacture it in Portland. This is another way our business could potentially grow, but without farm to school funding, it’s unlikely schools will be able to pay the extra cents for our great local product.

Please protect the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program! These resources are needed now more than ever. These investments reverberate in meaningful and tangible ways throughout our economy and community. They are vital to our food system as we all look at ways to anchor equity and connection. If anything, farm to school is a place for more investment in these challenging times!

Farm to School in Oregon is not just an idea or a grant program; it’s a vibrant community that supports one another and brings joy and meaning to the work of feeding our kids. I cannot tell you how powerful it feels to sit with nutrition directors and share a meal on a lunch tray, knowing how much work they put into sourcing the ingredients, and how many local businesses, from farmers to distributors to processors, brought their own love and work to the meal.

The farm to school community understands that budget cuts will be necessary. I am told by Megan Kemple that the Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.



Lola Milholland  
Portland, Oregon  
CEO, co-founder, Umi Organic



## White Oak Farm & Education Center

PO Box 450 Williams, Oregon 97544 541.846.0776 [www.whiteoakfarmcsa.org](http://www.whiteoakfarmcsa.org)

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July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Director at White Oak Farm & Education Center in Williams, Oregon. We are currently working in the Applegate Valley with three local rural elementary schools to provide outdoor education during the 2020-21 school year.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Our help is specifically being counted on by three local schools to enable them to provide safe socially distant options for students in the fall. This is a very efficient and inexpensive way to help our schools open up for in person learning this year!

These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but not more than that.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Taylor Starr  
Director  
White Oak Farm & Education Center  
PO Box 450  
Williams, OR 97544

JoEllen Meyeroff  
Kindergarten/ First Grade Teacher  
John Muir Outdoor School



945 S Riverside Ave  
Medford, OR 97501  
(541) 779-2667  
[www.medfordfood.coop](http://www.medfordfood.coop)  
[info@medfordfood.coop](mailto:info@medfordfood.coop)

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

In the Rogue Valley, Rogue Valley Farm to School used the relationships built via our farm to school work to leverage nearly a million dollars in federal funding to provide food for our community, passing out 2,000 FREE boxes of organic fruits and veggies via schools every week. Feeding more than 8,000 people EVERY WEEK.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. The Farm to School program will let our children learn outside where it is safe.

We need this program now more than ever! Maintain the Farm to School Grant Programs as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Anne Carter  
General Manager  
Medford Food Co-op  
Medford School District



/MedfordFoodCoop



@MedfordFoodCoop



Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a Parent and School Nutrition Staff Member in the Beaverton School District.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Maintaining this funding is critical to continue to support local farmers, and those employed by the farms. It also contributes to the over all economic stability of the state of Oregon. This funding for Farm to School provides fresh locally sourced goods to our students, providing essential nutrition for their growing needs.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Families in need also benefit from the funds as it allows districts' Nutrition Services resources stretch further, allowing for an increased ability to serve our students.

These resources are needed now more than ever. In the face of the coming economic crisis, this funding will be a resource that it essential to all aspects of the community. The farmers' ability to live and farm, the contribution to the state economy, and the ability to provide wider services to our children in need.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but not more than that.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Patrick Keane  
Beaverton School District Nutrition Services  
Beaverton, Oregon

Farm to School  
Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:00:23 PM

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To Whom this May Concern,

After teaching for 30 years, 10 of which included teaching Organic Farming to high school children and directing a School Garden Mentorship program, I am appalled that anyone would even think about ending the Farm to School program. With obesity rates in our youth skyrocketing and horrid foods being offered so many of these children, Farm to School bring health and food security to our youth, plus a knowledge of truly healthy food choices. Children LOVE to garden, to grow and have ownership of the produce they raise, and they change their bad eating habits and develop a life long love of learning for growing healthy food. Figure it out, keep a program that helps kids, not destroys them. Len Greenwood, Organic Farmer and Sustainability Instructor

**Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on  
Ways and Means**

7/21/2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of  
Committee:



I am an AmeriCorps VISTA member with North Central Public Health District in the Dalles. On behalf of Jump! In the Gorge and NCPHD, I want to ask that you please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our agricultural community, and the well-being of our children.

We live in a small, rural agricultural area where the Farm-to-School grant provides the opportunity for children in our community to access farm fresh, locally grown food. The Farm to School grant creates a symbiotic relationship between our local producers to our schools, and is essential to feeding children statewide while upholding our local economies.

The majority of schools in Wasco County qualify for free and reduced lunch because there are many families that struggle with poverty. Food insecurity in our region is prominent, and I fear that cutting funding for Farm-to-School efforts may further the burden of being able to access healthy, local food for families in need, especially during this crisis.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are critical for economic development, and school gardens are innovative opportunities for social distancing learning as we collectively figure out how to move forward with education.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for Farm-to-School in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm to School Grant Programs are maintained at some level, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Carys Fritz, OHA AmeriCorps VISTA, North Central Public Health District, The Dalles



## Food and Nutrition Services Department

909 N.E. Madrone Street ■ Grants Pass, Oregon 97526  
■ (541) 474-5716 ■  
Fax (541) 474-7133

Subject: Protect funding for Farm to School (written testimony for Public Hearing July 23rd)

Dear Legislator Team,

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Michael R. Morris, Director of Nutrition Services with Grants Pass School District. I am writing on behalf of myself, our students and the Grants Pass School District.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Much of the funding provided in the Farm to School Program allows us to purchase local product from our area, thus providing local nutritional product to our students on a daily basis. Without this funding, we would not be able to provide the nutritious meals that are that are greatly needed in our District.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. In addition, Farm to School funding provides great opportunity to promote local farmers, both in advertising and economically.

These resources are needed now more than ever. I ask you to please consider funding for this fabulous program,

Sincerely,

*Michael R. Morris*  
*Nutrition Services Director*  
*Grants Pass School District #7*  
*Office 541-474-5716*

*Cell 541-816-9979*  
*Fax 541-474-7133*

Funding for Rogue Valley Farm to School  
Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:29:41 PM

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I have volunteered with the program that provides produce boxes to disadvantaged families here in the Rogue Valley. I just heard that funding may be cut that will affect this program. Please reconsider as it is imperative that these families continue to get the nourishment needed while we are under this Covid 19 situation. Southern Oregon needs your attention to this situation. Please help us help these in need.

Don Paul  
752 Capella Circle  
Ashland, Oregon  
541-488-3922

Good evening,

I am a parent with interest in keeping farm to school programs accessible to my community via grants from ODE's Farm to School Grant Program. As a former charter school board member, I understand the importance of grants to sustain educational programs.

**Please protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program.** This funding is important to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. School gardens provide educational opportunity while also allowing students and staff alike to social distance as school resumes in late summer.

I never knew my son loved fresh chives until he brought some home from his school garden. He happily chomps on them like they're licorice. Gardening opens up so many opportunities for children to learn, grow, socialize, play in dirt, and try fresh and healthy foods.

I thank you for your service, and hope you'll consider my request.

Sincerely,  
Jen Dolan

**SAMANTHA STEELE**— SUPERINTENDENT

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**  
300 ASH STREET  
CENTRAL POINT, OREGON 97502  
PHONE: (541) 494-6201  
FAX: (541) 664-1637  
[www.district6.org](http://www.district6.org)  
[samantha.steele@district6.org](mailto:samantha.steele@district6.org)



July 21, 2020

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

For years, Farm to School funding from the state legislature has supported excellent programs at the schools in the Central Point School District—we have gardens or greenhouses at every school site in the district. Additionally, this summer, Rogue Valley Farm to School and Fry Family Farm fed our community – every week we provided thousands of boxes of vegetables and fruit – helping local families and farmers. Please don't cut funding that supports the Farm to School program --this funding is integral in feeding our children and supporting local farmers and our economic stability.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. School gardens are an important aspect of our safe re-opening plan as students return to school in the fall. In the Central Point School District, we plan to provide education outdoors as much as possible and we rely on Rogue Valley Farm to School to facilitate these authentic learning opportunities for our students. Rogue Valley Farm to School will also be a partner in the development of learning hubs—learning hubs will serve students who do not have stable, available daycare or who do not have the supports needed at home for part time distance learning—assuring that our students have equitable opportunities and equitable outcomes.

We need this program now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts are needed, but the Farm to School grant programs, mandated by HB 2579 are essential. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School grant program.

Sincerely,



Samantha Steele  
Superintendent

Hello Legislators,

Please do not let this very valuable program get reduced financially - it is very important, for some many reasons. Not only is it helping feed people who do not have healthy options, and teaching children the benefits of healthy food and farming, at this time with Covid, it is the best option for outdoor learning. When children cannot be in a classroom and need to be with others outdoors, it is the perfect teaching model. Not only are the children learning about food and how to grow it, they are learning so many other subjects. And they are able to grow food as well as beautify their campuses. When children cannot be inside, what could be a better teaching method than this program? My grandchildren have participated in the program and learned so many valuable lessons, and enjoyed it ( even more than sitting at a desk).

Again, this is a challenging moment for all of us and it is important to make the right choices. Please keep this program fully funded and alive. My grandkids and I will thank you so much!!

Tina Slosberg

**Subject:** PLEASE CONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:44:26 PM

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July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is important on many levels to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**Seriously, if you need to cut food stamps it will hurt, but cutting Farm to School Grant Funding will hurt for our most vulnerable population much more.**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

WE NEED THIS PROGRAM!

I understand that budget cuts are needed, and that most will hurt someone. But please protect our children by continuing funding for the Farm to School Grant Programs.

Respectfully,

Steven Christensen, private citizen, Medford Unified School District.

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a teacher and school garden coordinator at The Klahre House Alternative School in Hood River. I am writing on behalf of myself and our school and treatment program for teenaged foster care boys. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

If we lose funding for our garden program it would have far-reaching impacts in our community. The loss of funding would result in the elimination of one of the few programs that connects teenaged foster care boys to hands-on science, math, and job readiness skills in a way that is especially relevant to them and enhances their well being: Through food. So much of the students' school day revolves around working at a desk or computer; the Garden Program provides a safe and supportive place for the students to apply their learning in a hands-on setting, mimicking real-world situations where they can practice new technical skills as well as those related to teamwork, conflict resolution, and more. Our students would lose the opportunity to get outside and be physically active during their school day, as well as all of the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits that are associated with nature engagement. They would no longer gain the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes from growing their own food and feeding their friends and families, nor would they have such an introduction to nutritious foods and how to prepare them so they don't have to rely on fast food when they live independently.

The local partners we support through volunteer work, such as the FISH Food Bank and Raices Community Farm, would lose a significant portion of their workforce and the effects of that loss would ripple through the community in many ways. The youth would miss out on making connections with professionals in agriculture, exposure to potential career paths, and pro-social relationships with supportive adults, and conversely community members would miss out on the chance to see these youth in a different light- as contributing members of society who are so much more than their past behaviors.

The words of the past participants themselves really best highlights how important this program is to them: "The garden has helped me grow as a person in so many ways. I've learned patience and teamwork, which has helped me at work with customers and my work team. Garden class has tested my skills, pushing me to keep going and not to give up on

myself. Also to stay calm when I get frustrated and mad. My biggest accomplishment in garden class is building a garden family and contributing to that family."

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but not more than that.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

**Deborah Maddux**

Science Teacher/ OYCC Garden Program Coordinator  
Klahre House Alternative School  
Hood River, Oregon  
(541) 308-2236



[www.nextdoorinc.org](http://www.nextdoorinc.org)

Subject: Protect funding for Farm to School

To: Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am an educator with the non-profit, Cascade Girl Organization and Bee City USA - Phoenix, Oregon. I am writing on behalf of myself. Please do everything you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. The funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods and children's well-being.

Our kids' schools need this funding to inform their science education and to create life-skills. Additionally, research shows that outdoor education increases self-efficacy and improves mood. Healthy food creates a mindful child and with social distancing, what could be more useful than an outdoor garden, farm, food or beekeeping experience that allows interaction with others in a low-risk environment. What could be a better place to learn about the elements in the periodic table, meiosis and mitosis, the solar and lunar phases, the mathematics involved in the expansion of a beehive, the process of photosynthesis, the vitamins and nutrients people need to live and where to find them, the science of farming and gardening, what is in water and how is it used, communication with others to get tasks done and so much more.

Last year, Cascade Girl Organization taught over 400 kids in local schools about the pollination and pollinators. We worked with Garden Educators to accomplish this. Kids learned to reliably distinguish between bees and wasps, they learned about pollination, dissected flowers, became able to show us how pollination works and everyone got an educational booklet. Kids also learned about the disposition of various pollinators, their lives and reproduction, what they do to create food, which ones to avoid and what to do in case of a sting. We hope to continue this education with school garden coordinators. Bee City USA Phoenix Oregon also supported kids to grow a garden and contribute contents to the food bank. We are volunteers but the basis of many of the programs is the Farm to School funding supporting garden educators.

Additionally, farm to school sales are critical for economic development and school gardens are place where social distancing can be employed while learning math, science, communication and health skills.

As an educator, as a nurse, as a beekeeper, as a resident, as a parent, I implore you to support

Farming, Nutrition and Education during this pandemic, it is critical to provide support for Farm to School programs. Please do so.

Sharon Schmidt, PMHNP, Psy.D.

PO Box 263

Phoenix, Oregon, 97535

541.951.5595



July 21, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

As the Executive Director of Rogue Valley Farm to School, I am writing on behalf of our organization, the thousands of children that we serve, the many, many teachers, parents, school nutrition directors, kitchen staff and school administrators who are relying on our programming and support this fall, and the dedicated farmers in the Rogue Valley who are growing and producing food for our schools and our community.

The Farm to School movement is not just one organization, one sector of society, it crosses all lines.

It involves farmers and business owners, the primary producers of our economy.

It involves school kitchens and nutrition directors who have been feeding our communities since the COVID-19 crisis started.

It involves teachers and school administrators who see the garden as the ideal classroom, as a means of opening schools, in this global health crisis that we are all facing.

At a time of our greatest need, the Farm to School funding is helping to feed our community and put money in the pockets of farmers, who provide jobs vital to keeping our economy going.

Investing in Farm to School was the smartest thing the state legislature did in 2019. It has provided an ad hoc safety net to THOUSANDS of people in the Rogue Valley during this health and economic crisis. While so much is falling apart around us, Rogue Valley Farm to School is out working shoulder to shoulder (6 feet apart, with masks on) with farmers and school kitchens, feeding our community. Together, we are providing hope and good nutrition, and an excuse for families and the community to come together to help each other, when many are feeling isolated and afraid.

Rogue Valley Farm to School can do this because you funded us. This summer, Rogue Valley Farm to School leveraged funding from the Oregon Farm to School bill to bring nearly one million dollars in federal funding to Oregon producers and 6,000 lbs of fresh fruits and vegetables to more than 8,000 people EVERY WEEK, totaling more than 240,000 lbs of fresh, healthy food for families over the summer.

**Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon’s Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state’s economic stability, our farmers’ livelihoods, and children’s well-being. This is funding that stays in Oregon, feeds Oregon, and bolsters our economy. This is a smart investment with multiple bangs for each buck.**

Most importantly, these resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Sheila Foster  
Executive Director  
Rogue Valley Farm to School  
OFSSGN Education and Procurement Hub for Jackson and Josephine Counties



July 21, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**I am a teacher in Central Point and have witnessed firsthand how Rogue Valley Farm to School has improved the nutritional attitude and wellness of my students for the last 3 years. However, don't just take my word for it. In the spring I asked my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to write about their favorite field trip last schoolyear. Here are a few of their responses (please excuse the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade spelling and grammar):**

1. my favorite field trip was hanly farm. I chose hanly farm because the pizza that we made was delicious. When i went to hanly farm, i learned what basil, mint, and other plants look like. I liked hanly farm because i got to learn many different things. Also, i got to see a new kind of oven. Another reason why i enjoyed going to hanly farm, was that i liked spending time with everyone... and of course, ... the PIZZA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
2. My favorite field trip was the farm. It was my favorite because we made pizza. I learned about flowers. Also, that there are some flowers you can eat. We made pizza with vegetables and cheddar cheese. Then we ate the pizza it was so good.
3. Hanley farm. I think this because of the pizza! it was the most delicious thing I ever tasted! Some of the things we put on it was zucchini, cheese, olives, peppers, (pizza sauce), and I can't remember the rest. We went to Hanley farm to learn about the food system. production to be exact. we learned how much water plants need, how much sun they need, and how much time they need to grow. and some garden advice: don't water the leaves on a hot day.
4. My favorite Field trip was Hanley farm. Because I love all of the gardens and the chickens that they have. I'm also a big fan of cooking and picking out veggies from their garden. I like to learn about the plant system and I learned that the roots take in water from the soil and. Transfers it through the stem and into the leaves. It was also really nice to be outside considering that most people spend every day inside playing video games. I also really liked Hanley Farms because I got to help make our food
5. My favorite field trip was the hanley farm. At the farm there where pumpkins, trees, hens and grapes. I got to eat pizza. it was pretty. there was a stove. the pizza was good. the bus ride home was even better. I got to put stuff on the pizza.
6. Hanley Farm because they taught me how to cut and we got to see rainbow corn and we got to make pizza.

7. I think Hanley farm was best because we got to pick the vegetables and fruits. we got to wash the vegetables and fruits. we got to cut the vegetables and fruits and fed the chickens .we picked corn and rainbow corn and tomatoes zucchini cucumbers and peppers .and best of all is making the pizza and eating it. we played around in the grass like tag .
8. my favorite field trip was Hanley Farm. It was my favorite because we got to see chickens. i learned that there are different colors of corn. and I had fun picking the stuff to make the pizza. I also learned how to mash those warm mushy tomatoes the right way. And I also had fun taking a break and running around.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Jessica McKinnen

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher

Jackson County School District 6

Central Point Elementary

[jessica.mckinnen@district6.org](mailto:jessica.mckinnen@district6.org)



Maggie Gartman, MS RDN

"Achieving health through the power of food"

Blue Dragonfly Nutrition & Wellness

Central Point, OR 97502



GROWING THE FUTURE

474 North 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Helens, Oregon  
97051

503.397.3085

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Scot Stockwell  
Superintendent

SCHOOL BOARD

Bill Amos  
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Trinity Monahan  
Vice Chair

Melody Killens

Kellie Smith

Ryan Scholl

July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a School Nutrition Services Director with the St. Helens School District; I am writing on behalf of myself and staff.

The Oregon Farm to School grants funds have made possible huge changes in procurement for our students. I have cultivated business relationships with Columbia County farmers and producers, our transactions support small farms, producers and Farmer's Markets; teach and nourish our students, lesson our carbon footprint. The Farm to School Grant generates critical funding for farmers, towns, counties, our great state, and definitely our students.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. We have farmers and producers that count on our continued support, which we all may recover from this viral shutdown, our school district relies on these funds to support our budgets, Oregon students benefit from local, farm fresh, locally produced, healthy foods. We are working toward changing procurement long term, the grant funds are desperately needed.

These resources are needed now more than ever. We are all aware that the Covid shutdown has economically devastated many small businesses. Oregon's growers and producers have been especially hard hit, with restaurants and private food services shuttered for months. Please allow school districts to continue to procure services from our states growers and producers. Grant funds generate even more revenues for school districts, communities, and our state.

Thank you for your consideration in this vital issue,

Misty Crawford, Nutrition Director  
St. Helens School District  
(503) 366-7234  
[mistyc@sthelens.k12.or.us](mailto:mistyc@sthelens.k12.or.us)  
474 N 16<sup>th</sup> St. St. Helens, OR 97051

Dear Co-Chair Frederick and Co-Chair McLain and Members of the Education Subcommittee,

Please find attached letters of support for the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) that were submitted individually to [jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov) for the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means hearing that was originally scheduled for June 2020.

These 26 letters represent a broad diversity of people, including a rancher in eastern Oregon, a graduate student, soil and water conservation districts, the Chief of the Oregon Department of Forestry Fire Protection Division, federal agencies, local governments, other state groups, university faculty, non-governmental organizations, individual stakeholders, and consultants.

The Institute for Natural Resources plays a defining and critical role in the state by providing access to and delivering integrating centralized, science-based information that crosses multiple agency jurisdictions. The Institute also supports the critical partnerships that exist among the research community, INR technical experts, and natural resource practitioners; and gives Oregonians throughout the state a way to visualize Oregon through user-friendly online, geospatial platforms.

Our state faces numerous challenges in the coming years, from climate change stressors, such as drought and extreme wildfire, to those associated with meeting the needs and demands of water users in rural, urban, and coastal parts of our state. There has never been a more critical time in our state's history for this organization to be fully funded and supported.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lisa DeBruyckere, President



Creative Resource Strategies, LLC  
6159 Rosemeadow Lane NE  
Salem, OR 97317  
Office (503) 371-5939 | Mobile (503) 704-2884  
[www.createstrat.com](http://www.createstrat.com)

Dear Members of the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

Please find 129 letters signed by parents of students at Central Point School District #6. These were signed within a one hour period of time by many parents disturbed to hear that funding for farm to school programs might be in danger.

Thank you for your consideration and efforts to protect farm to school funding.



--

**Sheila Foster**

Executive Director

Rogue Valley Farm to School

541-778-7356

P.O. Box 898

Ashland, OR 97520

[www.rvfarm2school.org](http://www.rvfarm2school.org)



7/22/2020

**Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:**

I am the Program Director of the Supa Fresh Youth Farm, a non-profit youth program and youth-operated farm that is co-located at Creekside Community High School, in the Tigard Tualatin School District. We are one of the recipients of Farm to School grant funding, which helps us run critical programs for underserved students in the Tigard and Tualatin community.

**Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program!** This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**This funding has been critical in helping our student-operated farm grow food for the community, while also helping underserved students learn employment and life skills that will help them be more self-sufficient and healthy. The Supa Fresh Youth Farm employs and provides CTE classes in sustainable agriculture for more than 100 youth per year, including a robust summer jobs program and elementary educational options. Students learn critical life and work skills by growing food that is donated and sold in their community. They run all aspects of the farm and develop skills through active, real-world learning opportunities. The students and their community benefit greatly from this program through the additional access to healthy foods and transformative learning opportunities that come with running a farm. In addition to the farms the youth also build gardens and provide lessons for other community groups in an effort to share healthy food options and increase access for the community. It is critical that this funding remain in place to continue to provide these amazing and beneficial opportunities.**

**This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. This summer the youth who work at the farm have been able to follow a strict safety plan and return to in-person activities within required safety guidelines. This has been incredibly beneficial to the overall well-being of these students and also allows them to produce hundreds of pounds of food each week for their community through donations to multiple food donation programs, and the farm's CSA program. As school moves to a more virtual setting it is more important than ever to fully fund outdoor learning opportunities, as they may be the safest way to connect with students in person and are a fantastic way to provide hands-on, active learning opportunities.**

These resources are needed now more than ever. The team at Supa Fresh has worked diligently coming up with new ways to run the program and provide services, and has been very successful in engaging students and providing safe, healthy learning opportunities while producing food for the community.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for farm to school in Oregon and the communities that benefit from it are the ones who will suffer.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,  
Katrin Dougherty  
Program Director  
Oregon Human Development Corporation  
Supa Fresh Youth Farm  
8040 SW Durham Road  
Tigard, OR 97224  
503-307-0633  
[katrin.dougherty@ohdc.org](mailto:katrin.dougherty@ohdc.org)

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a recent graduate of the Master in Education program at Portland State University and former Community Liaison in the Tigard-Tualatin School District. I was on the school garden committee, a co-teacher with the school garden club, and I managed the school food pantry.

I urge you to please prioritize and protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to children's well-being, a focus on food security, embracing programming that supports BIPOC communities, and creating outdoor teaching spaces crucial to quelling the spread of COVID-19.

Funding for the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program is something that should be maintained, and ideally heightened, at a time such as this. Sustained access to outdoor learning spaces is something our schools desperately need at this time.

The Oregon Farm to School Grant Program supports the social and emotional well-being of students by providing them an outdoor space to learn, to calm down, to engage with nature, and to gain important life skills. In my personal experience, I have witnessed garden programming be especially valuable to students with disabilities and students living with poverty as it provides an interactive learning space that also affords the wellness benefits of fresh air and interaction with nature.

The program supports outdoor education, opportunities for physical distancing, and general physical well-being. In this time of COVID-19 and schools planning to re-open, it is unthinkable that any support for learning outdoors would be cut. School garden spaces are often a school building's only outdoor learning space. Schools need more of these and they also need garden program coordinators to help teachers efficiently and effectively teach their classes out in the garden in meaningful ways. This would require more funding, not less.

The program supports emancipatory education for Black students, Indigenous students, and people-of-color. Thus, the program supports district equity and anti-racism educational goals. As a recent OPB story\* points out, food security has been a major problem in our country that has become elevated by the pandemic, and people-of-color have been disproportionately affected by the lack of food security. Historically, land was stripped from people from these communities, and having an opportunity to have access to land, and to see themselves as having ownership in that learning and work, is extremely important in the fight against white supremacy. The programs have the opportunity to foster food sovereignty for underserved communities. The program supports access to fresh food, the promotion of land stewardship, and affords many students and community members living in poverty an opportunity to have a garden. Keep in mind that wealthier students have access to gardens in their own backyards. For many of our students, the school garden program is their only chance at outdoor learning.

As a Community Liaison who ran a school food pantry that supported the backpack program, I witnessed first-hand how the garden directly benefited low-income community members in a tangible way. During harvest season they were beneficiaries of hundreds of pounds of fresh produce. Additionally, the school garden harvest contributed to healthy meals in the school cafeteria, and to the local community food pantry. Thus, the program supports access to fresh produce for community members who may not otherwise have easy access to healthy food.

The program supports hands-on-opportunities for STEAM learning. Science, technology, engineering, art, and math are all main aspects of school garden education. The grant helps schools afford the curriculum, staff, and resources needed in order to successfully implement garden lessons into standardized learning.

The program supports extracurricular learning, leadership skill building, and job skill training. School garden programs create a space where a Garden Club can meet, where secondary students can lead their community in planning, and where high school students can gain valuable job skills. These are opportunities that every Oregon student should have and most schools desperately need access to garden program funding to support these opportunities.

The program supports community and family involvement. Where I worked, the garden is a community place where families who live in apartments could rent out a garden box, where retired community members can volunteer, and where people of different backgrounds and socio-economic status can team together to learn gardening skills and improve the garden space for all. It is a space of gathering, learning, celebration, and peace for the community. For many of the immigrant and low-income families I worked with as a Community Liaison, the garden was the only place where they could grow their own food for their family and neighbors.

Lastly, the opportunity to garden for many students is just plain fun. The program supports fun. I was an advocate for our school's Pacific Islander Club. If the weather was nice, the students always wanted to meet in the garden. They would take turns telling me stories of gardening with their grandmothers in Chuuk and in Guam. They would often say that the garden was their favorite place at the school and that it reminded them of being back on the islands. This is a beautiful feeling for these students who are of a population that has been traumatized by a long history of disenfranchisement in this nation and who are now members of the population with the highest rate of COVID-19 infections in the state of Oregon. Please don't take garden program funding away from these students. I urge you to do your very best to ensure that the funding for school garden programming remains robust and sustained for years to come.

Weighing school funding cuts cannot be easy, as I know there are many valuable programs that need careful consideration. I do not fully know what you are weighing this grant program against, but I can suggest a few ways, based on personal experience, where I can imagine the budget can potentially be cut or trimmed to help keep programs like the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program alive.

-Security spending: More and more I have witnessed cute, welcoming schools with colorful murals be turned into something that resembles more of a prison or stale office building with gray walls, cameras, and locked entries. I imagine that this was provoked by national school

shootings. Which is unfortunate, because many news reports have noted that there are not enough statistics to prove that these security systems work. It is also very likely that these security systems would still be ineffective in an active shooter situation given that most of the previous violent acts have been carried out by community members who would usually be let into the school anyways. These new security systems foster fear and they create a false sense of security. It would be beneficial to stop paying large sums of money to security companies and to instead focus those funds towards anything that supports the social/emotional health of our students.

-Increase energy efficiency: School building officials can work with local energy companies to have the buildings audited in order to identify areas where they can improve energy efficiency to save money.

-Standardized testing: As many educators have shared over and over again, much of standardized testing sucks time in the classroom away from actual instruction and learning. It requires money to be spent on digital programs, paperwork, building use, and staff time. And in the end, it is rarely benefitting students in any way and has negatively impacted schools in high-poverty neighborhoods. We need to do a better job at finding ways to allocate money without taking valuable learning time away from our students and without facilitating wider inequity.

I hope this testimony helps you focus the reasons why the Farm to School Grant Program is so important and provides meaningful ideas about where money can be saved elsewhere in order to protect this program.

Please do your best to assure ample, and sustained, and growing funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Lenka Becvar  
MEd graduate, PSU  
Former Community Liaison, TTSD

\*Ligor, C and Chavez, J. (July 21, 2020). A Portland Farm Seeks to Restore Black People to the Land. OPB.



## Nutrition Services

Anne Leavens, Supervisor | [anne.leavens@district6.org](mailto:anne.leavens@district6.org)  
Margaret Corbett, Secretary | [Margaret.corbett@district6.org](mailto:Margaret.corbett@district6.org)  
Phone | 541-494-6911

Co-chairs Frederick, McLain and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anne Leavens and I am the Nutrition Supervisor of Central Point School District #6 in Jackson County.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihood, and children's well-being.

Due to schools being closed in March we have lost income as our participation has decreased. The hybrid model of school being planned for SY 20/21 has us planning for a second year of decreased meal participation in our program. The anticipated decrease of revenue will be a financial hardship to our meal program. The Farm to School funding we have been receiving has been an integral part of how we can afford to purchase the local food items we offer for our meal program. Without this funding and the decreased revenue we are planning for, we will not be able to continue purchasing most of the local products we buy with our farm to school dollars, such as pea shoots and sunflower shoots from Terra Sol, sausage links that we serve with our homemade pancakes from Marvin's Gardens and Cattle Company, and Whole Grain Biscuit Mix from Camas Country Mill. Our farm to school producers rely on our regular purchases. Losing this funding would be a significant loss for our nutrition program and will be a significant financial loss to our farm to school producers in our region and across the state.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in our community and in Oregon. Please do all you can to protect funding for the Farm to School Program.

Thank you for your service.



Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Doug Lofdahl, Program Co-Manager for the Family Nurturing Center Farm & Food Program in Medford. I am writing on behalf of the families in our program, as well as all of the families in our community whose lives and health are impacted through services made possible by the Oregon Dept. of Education Farm to School Grants, which became available to programs like ours for the first time last year.

Programs supported by Farm to School grants are vital to the health of our community, especially to families who have traditionally faced barriers to accessing healthy, local produce and farm products. In my 20 years of working with low income families in Southern Oregon, and witnessing, as well as participating in, many efforts to improve the health and nutrition of children, I have never seen the level of success that I have witnessed in the short time that these funds have been available to us. By creating a direct link between local farms and our schools, children and their families are able to experience a connection between their food and where it is grown; they are able to easily access local, healthy produce regularly, so that it becomes incorporated into their diet at home; farmers are able to rely on a stable and dependable market in our own community, and to broaden their mission to include improving the health of our community. Access to healthy food is one of the most critical components of Social Determinants of Health, and one that has historically been lacking for a large portion of our community. By working directly with farmers and schools, Oregon Farm to School has allowed us to make great strides in making our community a more equitable and healthy home for all families, regardless of income, race, or health.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our FNC Farm Program is currently distributing all of the produce that we grow to families receiving assistance through the Nurturing Center. With our current Farm to School Grant, we anticipate giving away over 20,000 pounds of fresh, organically grown produce to some of the most at risk families in all of Oregon. Without this funding, we will not be able to do so. This food is serving as a lifeline for our families during this time, and goes far beyond a nice effort to improve vegetable consumption. It is in fact a necessity for our families. I know that this is only one example out of many that are so important for the health of many, many families who will not be able to replace the supports that have been available due to Oregon Farm to School funding.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Doug Lofdahl  
Family Nurturing Center Farm & Food Program Co-Manager  
Medford, Oregon

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am an educator writing on behalf of The Environmental Center, a community non-profit organization working in Central Oregon. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Farm to school funds have been utilized in our community to purchase food from Oregon farmers to feed our children, meeting a critical need for both students and farmers during the COVID-19 school and business closures. Farmers who may have lost restaurant distributor income were still able to sell to school districts, including ours in the Bend La Pine School District. Children had uninterrupted access to healthy food, often made from scratch with Oregon crops. This spring we were personally able to support families in Redmond coming to get free school meals with garden and nutrition activity packets to do at home, which busy parents were grateful for. This summer we're currently working with small groups of low-income students outside in the garden, arguably the safest space for them to be during this pandemic. Weekly we're purchasing food from local farmers to send home with their families, supporting farmers and the health of our children. This work simply would not be possible without farm to school funds.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. We hope to continue to support schools this fall with support in schools in Redmond & Bend, whether it's outside in their school gardens or supporting garden and nutrition at home for families.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Tracy Ryan  
Garden/Nutrition Educator  
The Environmental Center

Miles DiMarco  
Haig St  
Eugene OR  
97401

Oregon Legislature  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

July 23, 2020

I am a student at Martin Luther King Jr. Education Center in Eugene, Oregon. I am currently enrolled in summer school, studying language arts, social studies and farming. I spend about 3 hours a day, two days a week at the school farm. I am able to learn how to grow food, take food home, and earn credit.

A few benefits of school farms and gardens are that they allow kids time outside, and also kids should learn how to garden and grow their own food so they can spend less money on food. The diabetes rate is increasing by 50 to a 100 percent in most of the states in the US, so eating healthier can help. Schools that have gardens and farms and environmental programs have higher scores on tests in math, reading, writing, and listening. Kids that grow gardens are more likely to eat fruits and vegetables more often. Making gardens increase self esteem and growing ownership and responsibility. It also helps kids learn cooperation, develop relationships and team building.

Please do not cut funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program!

Sincerely,

Miles DiMarco



SustainableLivingCenter



500 Tausick Way, Walla Walla, WA 99362 · Telephone 509.524.5218 · Fax 509.524.5209. Email [info@slcww.org](mailto:info@slcww.org)

July 22, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I am the director of the Sustainable Living Center, a WA/OR nonprofit organization that, among other programs, currently administers Farm to School programming under the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program at Athena Elementary and Ferndale School in Umatilla County.

We are working with dedicated parents, teachers, principals and other administrators to bring all of the benefits of Farm to School to Umatilla County. Everyone has worked incredibly hard and much progress has been made, thanks to the availability of the grant funding. This funding is critical to Oregon's economic stability, the livelihoods of our farm community and related businesses and the well-being of our children.

Our two rural schools are great examples of how private, nonprofit and state investment create enduring projects that will provide benefit for students, farmers and the community for many years to come. With our Program's expertise; the time, financial and space commitments from the schools; volunteers lending boots on the ground help; and the support and resources of the Oregon Farm to School Program, outdoor learning spaces, community gathering places and healthy local food production capacity are being built. These elements are needed now more than ever, in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, and with the return of children to school in the fall.

We truly appreciate and understand that cuts will be necessary to offset the financial impacts of the pandemic, but respectfully ask that you do all you can to preserve the critical funding needed to sustain the momentum we've achieved, to bring our collective projects to full fruition and to protect the investments that have already been made. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions about our work or additional information about the benefits of Farm to School programming.

Thank you for your service - especially under these challenging circumstances.

Sincerely,

Erendira Cruz  
Executive Director

*Our Mission: To conserve resources for the future by encouraging and facilitating sustainable living practices in our community.*

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Coordinator for the Rogue Valley Food System Network. I am writing on behalf of the 15 food systems related organizations that make up the Rogue Valley Food System Network Council.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

It is widely studied and accepted that access to fresh vegetables foods at an early age set our children up for the greatest health and success throughout the rest of their lives. Rogue Valley Farm to School and the statewide programming are essential to the children of the Rogue Valley receiving healthier, farm fresh food and education. This program, for many of our kids, is their only interaction with fresh grown foods and vegetables. It is the program that introduces them to vegetables they would otherwise not eat at home, and in many cases vegetables that their families can't afford.

In the wake of the COVID pandemic, it is our farm to school programs that had the resiliency and swiftness of thought to be able to pivot from working on classroom and garden educational programming, to delivering 2000 boxes of fresh vegetables to our local families who were counted on the lunches their kids were receiving in school, and all of a sudden found themselves without. It is this kind of innovation that our local farm to school programs will continue to implement in a way that best serves our local community.

Beyond their work in education, the Rogue Valley Farm to School has served as a local procurement hub for southern Oregon. The team has worked tirelessly to build relationships with our local farmers to increase the amount of local produce sold in our school system. Our work in increasing the amount of local food purchased in the schools has been extremely beneficial to our small and medium sized farms as we faced challenges of wildfire season, and now the closing of many restaurant accounts.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. This funding is absolutely necessary for the health and well-being of our future generations. To cut this funding at this time would be undermining the very thing we are supposed to protect, our children's future.

Sincerely,  
Alison Hensley Sexauer  
Coordinator, Rogue Valley Food System Network



Oregon Child Development Coalition  
Malheur County  
482 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Ontario, OR 97914



CO-Chairs Frederick and McLain  
Oregon Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: Protect funding for Farm to School

Date: July 22, 2020

I am the Program Director of the Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) in Malheur County here in Ontario and Nyssa Oregon. OCDC provides Head Start services to children of low-income farmworker families serving over 375 children, ages 6 weeks to kindergarten annually. We are a recipient of the Farm to School grant for our preschool (3-5 years of age) children.

This grant has provided us the ability to plant 26 raised garden beds with vegetables of all kinds. The harvest of these vegetables is used in a number of ways: 1) food experiences in the classroom with children, 2) added to our USDA meals for the children's meals, and 3) given out to families through our Food Pantries. We also have been able to provide a full nutrition curriculum of materials that our teachers provide to children each month on different foods. Books, lesson plan ideas, and classroom materials have been purchased with this grant money. We have incorporated local growers into our implementation plan by bringing them into the center to give little demonstrations to the children on the products they are growing. We also purchase food from them for use in our daily meal program. The grant also pays for a part time person to coordinate the grant implementation. Without this funding, we would not be able to provide these services to children or local growers. The kids LOVE the gardens and can't wait to go harvest each week!

Please do all you can to protect funding the Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our growers livelihoods and to children's well-being. With COVID-19, our garden areas are key to providing good nutrition education as well as to keeping social distancing with small, stable groups of children. Cutting \$7.8 million would be devastating to all Oregon schools participating in this program.

Thank you for your consideration and services to our great state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

*Lori Clark*

Lori Clark, Program Director  
OCDC, Malheur County (Ontario and Nyssa)  
541-889-9309 work

*Migrant & Seasonal Head Start*

Taunya DeBoer  
2545 Van Buren  
Eugene, OR 97405

Oregon Legislature  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

July 23, 2020

I am an educator at Martin Luther King Jr. Education Center in Eugene. I teach adjudicated youth and youth currently residing in rehabilitation and juvenile detention. We started a school farm project years ago, and thanks to the farm to school grant program, we have greatly expanded our youth farm. I just found out yesterday that the funding for this program is in jeopardy.

I strongly believe that cutting funding for this program will harm our economy, and Oregon's youth. This program has allowed us to teach our youth how to garden, provide a positive outdoor activity for them, improve their health, build teamwork and create an interest in learning how to grow, harvest and prepare food sourced locally. It has helped them to learn to work together, and allowed us to have a program this summer for credit that we can do in the time of Covid because it is outside. It has led to ideas for our outreach programs. Our youth in the MLK Culinary Arts program use the food we grow, and we serve a Holiday Meal to the needy every year, and we also make burritos and meals and drive them to the Opportunity Village and the various locations that serve unhoused populations. While we cannot do these activities with Covid, we were looking forward to doing so in the future. Students respond well to helping others and giving back to the community, and the school farm helps us to do this. I believe it is possible that the school farm project will prove to reduce recidivism in the future. Each week, our students take home a box of food for their families. These youth are also bringing in pictures, videos and recipes of foods they have prepared with items from the school farm. I can't stress enough how important this grant is to our school and program.

Research has indicated that these programs provide long lasting benefits, far beyond what I see as an educator. Time spent in school gardens and farm projects has led to greater environmental stewardship, higher academic achievement, and positive community outreach. At a time when our nation's youth are spending less and less time away from a screen, you want to cut the one program that guarantees they practice hands on learning? At a time when we are suffering from a health crisis, you want to cut funding for something that improves the health and well being of our students?

This letter has been written in complete haste as I am preparing to go and work with our youth in our school farm this morning. I could write and cite pages of research on this topic, but I just learned this morning that the public comment would end today and I have students to teach. I hope you follow through and research this on your own before you make this decision. Now is the time to invest in school farms, especially when we need to expand our teaching spaces to accommodate ODE guidelines for spacing. Do not take away the funding that allows for our outdoor classroom space in the farm. We need to be building greenhouses, growing more of our school's food, making more connections to the community with school property and farm projects- not less.

I hope you do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Taunya DeBoer

**BILL POST**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 25



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in support of the Farm to School Program which is currently at risk of being eliminated should funding be reduced. This program incorporates local food into school meals while providing access to healthy foods for students.

From 2018-2019, the Farm to School program has reached over 249,411 students in Oregon. In just 12 weeks throughout this pandemic, the Umatilla School District alone has provided over 105,000 meals for students. This program was established in 2011 and has been so successful, the legislature UNANIMOUSLY expanded to the program in 2019 with HB 2579A.

In my district alone, Champoeg Creek Farm located in St. Paul began selling pasture-raised poultry to the Portland Public Schools in 2019. Over 17,000 lbs of turkey was sold to the school and in 2020-2021, Champoeg Farm is on track to sell 62,000 lbs of turkey.

With our economy at an all-time low, access to local and nutritional meals are an absolute necessity. Not only are we supporting local farms, but we are ensuring students have healthy meals that include fruits and vegetables from our farmers instead of processed foods. In fact, the Salem-Keizer School district is currently providing both lunch and dinner for students.

We are in very unprecedented times, and difficult decisions need to be made, but let's make sure we put students first and ensure their health and basic needs are being met as best as possible.

Sincerely,

Bill Post

Cc: Senator Betsy Johnson  
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward  
Representative Brian Clem



## Curry County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Post Office Box 666 - Gold Beach, OR 97444 - Phone (541)247-2755 - Fax (541)247-0408

July 21, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing on behalf of the Curry SWCD to urge you to please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our family farmers' livelihoods, and the well-being of our children. We are the recipients of a Farm to School Education Grant on the South Coast for the 2020-21 school year.

During this pandemic our organization was given exclusive permission to keep school gardens open so that we could provide needed veggies for families in our communities. In our rural community many jobs are on hold, and families have no way to pay for rent, or feed their families. Learning how to grow food in school gardens and from our local farmers is important to their health and well-being, as is supporting our family farms by purchasing local food for school meals.

Our small isolated communities, often dependent on our own resources, are especially vulnerable because we lack the support systems of larger cities. That's why Farm to School Education and Procurement remains vital to the education of our young citizens. Not only do we teach science, math, and engineering in the school garden and encourage youth to try new healthy foods, but we also teach them how to feed themselves by growing their own. As a trusted school education partner, we will help our school districts meet the new challenges of education by providing outside learning opportunities with COVID protocols.

These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liesl Coleman".

Liesl Coleman  
District Manager

# Ecotrust

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am writing on behalf of myself and Ecotrust, a non-profit working across Oregon, to **ask you to do all that you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to helping stabilize our state's economy by supporting** the livelihood of our farmers and food producers, and responding to challenges faced by schools as they work to nourish our children during these unprecedented times.

Farm to school grant money benefits hundreds of businesses in our state. More than 400 different Oregon farmers, ranchers, fisherman, processors, and food distributors have supplied Oregon schools since 2015 because of farm to school. For every \$1 a **school spends on local food, \$2 of economic activity is generated in our state's economy.** For every job that is created because a school district is buying local food, 2.6 total jobs are created across the state.

**Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program exemplifies the economic, social, and** environmental benefits that can be realized when we prioritize and invest in kids, farmers, local food businesses, and communities. This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportional impact of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities in our state. Farm to school resources create direct and ripple-effect benefits for food producers, their distributors, workers across the food chain, educators, school nutrition services, children, and families. The Farm to School Grant funding that is currently unallocated are the components of the program that could have the most significant economic impact, especially during the COVID-19 crisis:

- Competitive Procurement Grants specifically incentivize schools to purchase from Black, Indigineous, and other People of Color--populations that have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of COVID-19.
- Producer Grants provide critical funding for small to mid-sized producers to acquire necessary infrastructure to effectively meet the needs of the school market, especially pre-portioned and packaged grab and go items that are critical **for school nutrition service's COVID-19** response.
- Technical Assistance Grants provide the resources necessary for state agencies and nonprofit partners to help schools find Oregon foods and provide effective outdoor education during the pandemic.

The current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm

to School Grant Programs included in HB 2579 are maintained at some level. These grants are interdependent so that the program can effectively address economic, social, and environmental well-being together.

Ecotrust's mission is to inspire fresh thinking that creates economic opportunity, social equity, and environmental well-being. Our goal is to foster a natural model of development that creates more resilient communities, economies, and ecosystems. After over a decade of work on **farm to school locally and nationally, we know that Oregon's** Farm to School Grant Program is critical to the development of a strong regional food system that will increase resilience to climate change and the pandemic we are facing now, while creating economic opportunity, improving land management, promoting equitable outcomes, and building pathways to better community health.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to this wonderful place we call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Hedstrom".

Angela Hedstrom  
Farm to School Coordinator, Ecotrust  
Portland, Oregon



Friends of Family Farmers ♦ PO Box 396 ♦ Corbett, OR 97019

503-581-7124 ♦ [www.FriendsofFamilyFarmers.org](http://www.FriendsofFamilyFarmers.org)

July 22, 2020

**Testimony to the Education Subcommittee  
of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means**

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a small family vegetable farmer in Corbett and I am also the Executive Director of Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF). Friends of Family Farmers represents Oregon farmers who responsibly steward their land and feed our communities. We promote policies that protect and expand the ability of family farmers and ranchers to operate successful land-based enterprises while providing safe and nutritious food for all Oregonians.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Personally as a small family farmer with my husband we have lost restaurant sales and, as you can imagine, the future of *any* restaurant sales are totally unknown at this point. In the last several years we have grown and sold produce to a few nearby schools thanks to connections made through the Farm to School Program and we were looking forward to working more closely with our local Corbett and Hood River School Districts.

FoFF and our supporters strongly believe in developing regional food systems. A strong regional food system can contribute to the prevention of hunger and bolster food security – both crucial at this time in our lives. A robust regional food system also has the multiplier effect of circulating money through our local communities, keeping money in our rural towns. We need local farms to be able to easily access the sales outlets provided by local and regional institutions, and especially, *right now*, to Oregon's schools.

**This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. In sum, Farm to School sales are critical for economic development.**

We understand that budget cuts are necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Shari Sirkin  
Executive Director, Friends of Family Farmers  
Co-Owner, Dancing Roots Farm, Corbett

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Date 7/21/20

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a parent with students in the Phoenix-Talent School District

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. This funding is absolutely crucial to our community at this time. Rogue Valley Farm to School has been providing free veggie boxes to all our families. More than ever kids need to be outside and in gardens. Rogue Valley Farm to School is poised to work with the school district to help make going back to school possible with providing outdoor learning support. Students need healthy food to eat while at school. Now more than ever we need to support farmers and keep our communities going economically and provide healthy food at a time when kids need it more than ever!

Here in Southern Oregon we have seen the benefits of Farm to School programs. This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. My children and everyone else I know are filled with anxiety and frustration about school. Farm to School programs can provide social and emotional help and a respite for kids to get their hands in the dirt and be outside. They can support teachers in providing standards based lessons outside. This program is key to our district's plan of being able to have students at school. Even in school is all online, these programs will be able to give students much needed support to be healthy.

These resources are needed now more than ever. Every day we wake up to bad news. I work hard to see the positive and the opportunities in the challenges. Farm to School Programs offer so many benefits and opportunity for solutions. Our children need this, our community needs it, our farmers need it, schools need it. I know these are hard choices when we face budget shortfalls, but this is an investment in our children and in our community that will save us money in the long run and benefit long term health.

I understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm to School Grant Programs are maintained at some level, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Rebecca Slosberg, Phoenix Talent School District, Talent OR



Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Committee:

I am an educator with Sustainable Living Center working with two school districts in Umatilla County to implement their farm-to-school and school garden programs.

I ask that you please protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School (F2S) Grant Program! This hard-earned funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, children's well-being, food security and excellent, safe experiential education.

Not only does this funding help Oregon schools provide students the freshest and most nutritious Oregon grown foods, it supports the small, diverse, independently owned farm businesses that produce that food. This is critical across the nation as well as Oregon. In Umatilla, we've recently completed construction of two new large school gardens; students will learn how to grow and prepare their own healthy food, and teachers will provide multi-discipline outdoor learning opportunities for their students. Farm to School funding creates lifelong lessons in food security, equity and food system awareness.

This funding is doubly important to expand health and safety options during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the extra stresses now placed on schools, we need F2S funds to support teachers to creatively utilize and maintain these gardens as outdoor classrooms – a recognized health and safety trend, and a welcome companion to on-line digital learning. As folks struggle to maintain employment, and schools struggle to balance the health, well-being and educational needs of students and staff, these resources are more needed now than ever.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would *devastate* the F2S in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain up to \$2.55 million in cuts as long as base level Farm to School Grant Program funding is maintained, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

These funds are critical for maintaining stability in the agricultural economy, and school garden classrooms are a key social distancing tool as students return to school this fall. Please protect this critical funding allocated to the Farm to School Grant Program!

Thank you for your service and judicious decisions in this especially challenging time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen J. Wagner".

Karen Wagner, Education Manager  
Athena-Weston and Milton-Freewater School Districts  
311 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Pendleton, OR 97801

The Mission of the Walla  
Walla Valley Farm to  
School Program is to  
inspire healthy  
communities through food,  
farm and garden  
experience.

[www.slcvv.org](http://www.slcvv.org)  
[farmtoschool@slcvv.org](mailto:farmtoschool@slcvv.org)

500 Tausick Way  
Walla Walla, WA

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Farm to Schools Programs -.Rogue Valley  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:30:10 AM

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Dear Elected Officials of Oregon, who care about our future generation, our kids,  
**PLEASE DO NOT Cut the Farm to Schools Programs!!!!**

I am a 21 yr teacher who was self-employed over 21 yrs before teaching. I have seen the amazing transformation of kids changing. Creating good habits & choosing healthy foods. This is directly from the liaison with schools & all the hard work of Farm to Schools programs. Daily over the last few years the evidence can be seen, from the direct impact of learning by doing & creating the organic gardens at school, valuable lessons at all grade levels solid curriculum about healthy food, the changes issues that have developed,; from growing food from your own yard, to local organic farms gaining power in the market from people demanding healthier choices, to the changes in farming that have occurred trying to feed a growing population, where our food comes from farm to store & the footprint of it, etc. Farm to School programs are educating & empowering kids to know they have a choice & can make positive changes for a healthier life & planet. To see kids our future knowing that sustainability is a responsibility & a chance to create a better way of life that affects everything Please do NOT cut our children's chances to be equipped to lead us into the future with awareness & health! Keep the Farm to School Programs alive & growing strong! -Kim Elmer C.P. Teacher. Our elected officials you have the power of choice. Thank you!



Dear Senator Thomsen,

July 22, 2020

I am the owner and operator of Kiyokawa Orchards in Parkdale, Oregon. We have been selling to schools for close to ten years and our sales and popularity in Hood River, David Douglas and Portland Public Schools have grown due to the Farm To School Grant Program.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! The Farm to School Grants provide critical funding to help schools purchase Oregon-grown and Oregon-processed foods.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local producers have lost other markets and schools provide needed source of sales.

Without this funding, local producers risk losing a viable and consistent market that connects them to the community and vibrates throughout the economy in our region and the state.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program. Thank you for your service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Kiyokawa".

Randy Kiyokawa,  
President, Kiyokawa Orchards  
Parkdale Oregon  
541-806-7115

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Farm to School program Wednesday,  
**Date:** July 22, 2020 8:36:17 AM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

I am the Board Chair of The Family Nurturing Center in Southern Oregon---a Relief Nursery. (member of the OARN.) We serve high risk kids (0-5 yrs) and their families to keep them safe and help them get a good start in school.

Our Farm program is a key component of what we are able to do. Kids 0-5 and their parents spend time growing food, preparing food and sitting down to eat as a family. The farm operates on a shoestring budget and is very successful. The food products are important, but the psychological support to the kids and their families is huge.

I do not envy your job in making decisions to cut funding. I submit that this project is very financially efficient and therapeutic for the kids and families that we serve.

We are the best bang for the buck.

Thanks for your attention

Lee Murdoch MD  
Board Chair, Family Nurturing Center  
Medford, Or 97504

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing on behalf of myself and the Corvallis Environmental Center. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Our goal is to connect students with local, nourishing food in an engaging, inclusive, impactful way in order to increase the health of our natural and cultural community and all those living within it. The farm to school grant program funding is absolutely crucial to this work. Specifically, it allows us to provide following to underserved, low-income students in our community:

- Hands-on cooking and nutrition programming featuring Oregon foods
- School garden education
- Field trips to farms or production gardens
- Tasting tables of Oregon foods in the school cafeteria
- Promotion of Oregon foods to students, families, and the school community
- Programming for families led by students
- Planning with administrators, teachers, and parents to support the inclusion of healthy foods, school gardens, and farm to school programming into the whole school environment

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. In a thriving school garden, students can be taught any subject in an experiential, safe way.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Emily Olivo  
Program Director  
Corvallis Environmental Center

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am an educator writing on behalf of The Environmental Center, a community non-profit organization working in Central Oregon. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Farm to school funds have been utilized in our community to purchase food from Oregon farmers to feed our children, meeting a critical need for both students and farmers during the COVID-19 school and business closures. Farmers who may have lost restaurant distributor income were still able to sell to school districts, including ours in the Bend La Pine School District. Children had uninterrupted access to healthy food, often made from scratch with Oregon crops. This spring we were personally able to support families in Redmond coming to get free school meals with garden and nutrition activity packets to do at home, which busy parents were grateful for. This summer we're currently working with small groups of low-income students outside in the garden, arguably the safest space for them to be during this pandemic. Weekly we're purchasing food from local farmers to send home with their families, supporting farmers and the health of our children. This work simply would not be possible without farm to school funds.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. We hope to continue to support schools this fall with support in schools in Redmond & Bend, whether it's outside in their school gardens or supporting garden and nutrition at home for families.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Denise Rowcroft  
Garden for Every School Program Manager  
The Environmental Center





Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Committee:

I am an educator with Sustainable Living Center working with two school districts in Umatilla Country.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Not only does this funding provide much needed support for small, independently owned farm businesses, it helps schools provide equal access to the freshest and most nutritious foods for hungry students. In addition, Farm to School funding is essential to supporting meaningful hands on education in school gardens. We've recently completed construction of two new school gardens and teachers are so excited to provide outdoor, experiential learning opportunities for their students. But with all the extra stresses being placed on schools currently, teachers do require support to safely utilize and maintain gardens.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

These resources are needed especially now as folks struggle to maintain employment and schools balance the needs of students and staff.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm to School Grant Programs are maintained at some level, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Thiel".

Beth Thiel,  
Sustainable Living Center working with schools in  
Athena-Weston and Milton-Freewater

The Mission of the Walla  
Walla Valley Farm to  
School Program is to  
inspire healthy  
communities through food,  
farm and garden  
experience.



**Oregon State**  
University

**Lu Seapy**

Wasco County Extension  
4-H Youth Development  
Oregon State University  
400 E. Scenic Drive, Ste 2.278  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

**P** 541-296-5494

**F** 541-298-3574

lu.seapy@oregonstate.edu

7/22/2020

I am a teacher with Wasco County 4-H and have been a certified educator for over 20 years. Now, more than ever, Farm to School Programming is important. Our Farm to School program implements traditional and high tech farming methods (hydroponics and aquaponics). These self-sustaining, closed systems use fewer resources, less water and chemicals than many other agricultural farming methods. Incorporating high-tech learning into gardening creates valuable learning experiences for our youth.

Students need an opportunity to learn 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science Skills. Gardening and horticulture provide a safe and effective means for that learning. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

I understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lu Seapy  
Wasco County Extension  
4-H Youth Development

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Farm to School Funding- letter from a student

**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 2:02:59 PM

**Attachments:**

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Hi,

I sent a letter earlier in support of sustaining funding for the farm to school program. I only had a few students today, and they were scheduled to be working in the farm, but a few of them are working on letters around their schedule today. If I had known that the grant was in jeopardy, I guarantee that you would hear from more students.

I teach high school, but I know that the school farms in elementary and middle school are very popular as well. Please do not cut funding until at the very least you have a chance to hear from the students.

There may be more letters coming.

--

Taunya DeBoer

Teacher, Martin Luther King Jr. Education Center

Lane Education Service District

2515 MLK JR. BLVD

Eugene, OR 97405

tdeboer@lesd.k12.or.us/541-682-2405



Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain  
and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I serve as President of the Board of Directors for the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition (WFFC), a 501c3 organization which facilitates and supports the development of a secure, sustainable, and inclusive food system in Lane County, Oregon.

I am writing today on behalf of WFFC to implore you to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. We know that for every \$1 schools spend on local food, \$2 are returned to Oregon's economy.

The current proposed cuts of \$7.8 million to the Farm to School Grant Program, would be devastating to the Farm to School Program. Cuts at that level would not just reduce funding for the expansion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, they would eliminate *all funds* for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and would require taking back \$1.7M in funds that have already been awarded, with no other funding available for this fiscal year, when these funds are needed now, more than ever.

The Farm to School Grant funds provide funding for schools to buy from Oregon farmers and processors. Producers have lost other markets and schools provide needed sales. School meal programs have lost income from paying students and need these funds to continue to buy from Oregon farmers.

At WFFC, we envision a secure, sustainable, and inclusive food system as one in which our farms and food businesses are both ecologically and economically viable, our agricultural lands are supporting a much larger percentage of Lane County's food needs, and all members of our community have access to locally grown and raised foods. We believe that a strong local food system contributes to the integral health of our entire community and we work to facilitate greater understanding of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of our food choices. Fully funding the Farm to School Grant Program is good for Oregon farmers, Oregon students, and Oregon communities.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.



Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kait Crowley".

Kait Crowley,  
Board President  
Willamette Farm and Food Coalition



Education Subcommittee of Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Committee:

I know you've heard a lot from constituents this week about how critical the Farm to School Program is to the state's economic well-being, our farmers' livelihood, and children's well-being.

The current plan for rebalancing the State budget includes cuts of \$7.8 million to the Farm to School Grant Program, which would be *devastating* for the Program. This is more than half of the Grant funds available, and would require taking back \$1.7M in funds that have already been awarded, with no additional funding available for the current fiscal year, when these funds are needed more than ever.

The Farm to School Grant funds provide funding for schools to buy from Oregon farmers and processors. Producers have lost other markets and schools provide needed sales. School meal programs have lost income from paying students and need these funds to continue to buy from Oregon farmers. And Oregon's 770 school gardens are a key to social distancing in schools in the fall.

The Farm to School Grant funding which remains unspent is actually the funding which will have the most significant economic impact. For example, the Competitive Procurement Grants which haven't been distributed yet, provide funding to school districts that have shown they can spend their funding where it will have the greatest impact including direct purchases from farms as well as preference for purchases from producers who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC). Supporting our BIPOC farmers is critical, especially during the COVID-19 crisis when we know BIPOC community members are more vulnerable to health and economic impacts. And overall, we know that for every \$1 schools spend on local food, \$2 are returned to Oregon's economy.

I'd like to share some stories to give you a sense of what producers and school districts are experiencing during this unprecedented time, both in terms of the challenges they are facing and what's been possible.

## **Producers**

Salsa Locas has sold tamales and/or chips to Hillsboro, Beaverton, Portland and Umatilla school districts. Portland Public School purchased 6,000 one ounce chip bags.

Keith, with Better Bean Company wrote : “Portland Public Schools ordered a pallet (6000 2.5 ounce single serve cups) of our OG Cuban Black Beans. They will pass out in their lunch kits as a protein option. Each cup has 4gr protein. This is just the first order. I cannot thank you enough for creating this opportunity.”

Dan Thall, of Hood River Organic, wrote: “Despite COVID 19 we continue to do deliveries and are keeping 1000s of Oregon kiddos well fed with Hood River produce!”

## **School districts**

Whitey Ellersick, with Portland Public Schools wrote: “we are serving local beans today from the Better Bean Company and serving Lola's yakisoba [Umi Organic] next week. So slow moving but still trying to support local. ... I do not have [any more] funds to support [local purchases] - while we are feeding kids, the revenue from reimbursement does not cover our costs while paying all employees regardless. Our funds will be depleted and our ability to purchase the same quality of food we have done in the past may not be possible, and therefore, my ability to support local may be less than before.”

Rachel Petit with Food Roots wrote:

“We have worked with Nestucca Valley School District, to help them source local products for the district's weekly meal delivery to families. So far they have purchased 160 pounds of ground beef and 108 pounds of salad mix, over \$1500. They have used the ground beef in chili and other meals, sent it out for delivery cold with reheating instructions and included a label with the local farm information. They've used their ODE Procurement grant funds for these purchases, and are planning to continue sourcing county-grown products on an as-desired basis for the rest of this school year, and for standard food service next year.”

Chris Panike, LaGrande School District, wrote to Nell Mae's Farm:

“Sounds like we can handle all your available crop, so bring us everything you need to move, we will distribute to our students. Excellent way to put the Farm to School funds to work! Hopefully this will help you get you over the hump and the restaurant demand will return.”

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. It's our understanding that the Farm to School Grants can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts without jeopardizing these critical programs.

Please do all you can to protect Oregon's Farm to School Grant funds.

And please contact me if you'd like additional information or if I can answer any questions about the program and the impact of the proposed reductions.

Thank you so much for your consideration and your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Kemple". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Megan Kemple, Director

541-344-4329 (home office) 541-225-8807 (cell)

[megan@oregonfarmtoschool.org](mailto:megan@oregonfarmtoschool.org)



909 N.E. Madrone Street ■ Grants Pass, Oregon 97526  
■ (541) 474-5716 ■  
Fax (541) 474-7133

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Losing this funded program would be detrimental to the Rogue Valley and Grants Pass School District. It is in our best interest to support our local Farmers for the environment and sustainability. Purchasing local in our District insures quality and promotes families to buy local as well. Generates income for our local economy. Locally produced products tend to be fresher and taste better. Students tend to eat and try foods with a local story or "tie". We need to help preserve our farmland and farmers.

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

*Lisa Coward (Fisher)*

*Grants Pass School District No. 7*

*Food and Nutrition Asst. Supervisor*

*541-474-5716 ext. 16101*

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Please help spare the ODE Farm to School Grant Program  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 1:30:19 PM

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Dear Senator Frederick, Representative McLain and members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education:

Thank you for doing your job on all of our behalf. We appreciate it!

We realize you and others in the legislature have to make priority cuts. We do hope, though, you can spare the *ODE Farm to School Grant Program*. (We understand the Legislature's current plan for rebalancing the State budget includes possible cuts of \$7.8 million to the program. This is more than half of the program's funding and would be devastating for the children served.)

Our concern especially is for the *Farm and Food Program* of the *Family Nurturing Center* in Medford, for which we personally provide significant annual and capital support through a donor-advised fund at the Oregon Community Foundation.

As you may know, this program grows and distributes food daily to needy families – especially children – within our community. We understand the Farm and Food Program is 1/3 of the way through its current 18-month ODE Farm to School Grant of \$150,000. We will do what we can as private, interested citizens to support the Program even further. But cancelling even part of the remaining unspent \$100,000 – which helps cover part of the farm workers' salaries as well as buy feed for the animals that are butchered and other operating costs - will lead to serious child hunger in our community. We can't let this happen!

Thank you for doing what you can to preserve the ODE Farm to School Grant Program.

Best regards, Joni and Buck Smith

Joni and Buck Smith  
6430 Pine Ridge Drive  
Medford, OR 97504-7200  
Cell: 541-227-9300  
[buck@dewv.edu](mailto:buck@dewv.edu)

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Project Funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:43:09 PM

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Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I have been working with children and parents in multiple roles during the past 30 years. Promoting quality nutrition and food security for families has been an integral part of my work, especially with the population I have served: high-risk children who were victims of abuse and neglect and their parents who struggle with poverty, addiction and other challenges. As the Executive Director of the Family Nurturing Center, Jackson County Children's Relief Nursery, I was grateful when programs from the Farm to School team were made available to participants in Relief Nursery programs.

The Farm to School Program makes a strong contribution in helping school children learn about nutrition. By bringing local produce into schools, children are exposed to healthy foods that they can enjoy and appreciate as important to their health and growth. Explanations of how produce is grown and harvested gives children a frame of reference as begin to make choices regarding what they eat. The Program has supported school gardens which provide valuable planting information and skills for children.

The Farm to School Program makes significant contributions to the community . These contributions are especially important during the Covid-19 pandemic when families are struggling to feed their children. The program supports local farmers who are able to sell their produce in community markets.

I respectfully urge your continuation of strong support for the Farm to School Grant Program. I have witnessed its value on multiple occasions and believe it is significant in its contributions to the health and well-being of children and families in Jackson County.

With kind regards,

Mary-Curtis Gramley, Ph.D.

Founder and Former Executive Director of the Family Nurturing Center

[marycurtisgramley@gmail.com](mailto:marycurtisgramley@gmail.com)

541 324 7490

Subject: Protect funding for Farm to School

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Mindy Bell the Executive Director of the nonprofit, School Garden Project of Lane County (SGP). SGP currently partners with 24 elementary and middle schools located throughout Lane County. We serve 1,300 children in our county annually with our "Science in the Garden" program. I am writing on behalf of SGP.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

As per the Ready Schools, Safe Learners for 2020-21 guidelines, many children will be spending a majority of their time when they are attending school in person in their classroom in order to maintain social distancing. The guidelines do encourage teachers to pursue teaching activities outdoors when possible.

A school's garden provides the perfect environment for children to be outdoors and experience "hands on" learning all while being safe and easily maintain social distancing. SGP leads children through science and garden activities that are engaging and educational all while being fun.

Lastly, many of our teaching partners have shared with us the "calming" effect spending time in the garden has for many of their students. In our current environment of so much uncertainty and the additional stress that children in our community are facing, time in the garden provides a safe space to simply relax.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.



Mindy Bell  
Executive Director  
School Garden Project of Lane County



*Committed to a future in which children become healthy adults who eat fruits and vegetables, know the basics of growing food, steward the natural world, and contribute to a thriving community.*

◆  
**Board of Directors**

Alan Twigg, *President*  
Michelle Corona, *Vice President*  
Kelly Jones, CPA, *Treasurer*  
Rich Howorth, *Secretary*  
Ken Brown  
Zelene Flores  
David Goeres  
Jayne McMahan  
Gail Murray  
Connie Regali

◆  
**Executive Director**

Mindy Bell

◆  
PO Box 30072, Eugene, OR 97403  
541-284-1001  
info@schoolgardenproject.org  
www.schoolgardenproject.org



July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a Nutrition Coordinator with Neighborhood House Early Childhood Education Programs. I am writing on behalf of the program listed above.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This grant funding is providing our programs the ability to build school gardens at two of our centers. This will provide at-risk students, aged 3-5, the opportunity to grow their curiosity and creativity, language and communication, cognitive and social-emotional skills. Students will assist in building, growing, and maintaining a school garden. Through this project students will be exposed to local, nutritious foods and healthy eating habits, positively impacting their health and sense of community. The school gardens will set our students up for a successful, healthy, and bright future.

This project will incorporate Oregon grown, produced, and distributed fresh fruits and vegetables that align with what is grown in the school garden, during the regular school meal service and classroom cooking projects. The funds will go directly back to our local economy in Oregon and promote local producers, ranchers, processors, and distributors.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Students now, more than ever, need predictability in their daily lives and the ability to build a school garden program will allow for the predictability they need. This will provide our Oregon students with a safe, outdoor learning community, where they can breathe fresh air and stimulate their minds and creativity.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Emily Wallace, Neighborhood House, Portland

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:01:11 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Executive Director of the Sauvie Island Center. I am writing today to ask you to do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Our farm based education organization has provided unique experiences on working farms to more than 20,000 children since 2005. Educators tell us that experiences cannot be replicated in a classroom; and what's more 97% say that our curriculum is a valuable resource for helping to meet their teaching goals. Simply stated by one educator: "Dirty fingers = authentic learning."

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Our organization developed online curriculum that has been used by educators in Portland Public Schools as well as Hillsboro and Beaverton. Many students participating in the online curriculum had visited the farm in the fall of 2019. Our hope is that students will return again this fall, or in the spring, allowing children to connect the dots between the lessons they are participating online and the farm they had or will visit. Creating these connections to farms and food helps to ensure that the next generation of Oregonians will value our rich history as an agricultural leader. We believe that when children know where their food comes from, the whole community benefits.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Joanne Lazo (she/her/hers)

Executive Director | [Sauvie Island Center](#)

**Cell:** 503.201.5923

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 10422, Portland 97296

**Field Address:** Topaz Farm, 17100 NW Sauvie Island Road, Portland 97231

*Teaching, learning, and growing on traditional land of the Wapato People of the Chinook*



Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Farm to School Nutrition Exposure Specialist with Brookings Harbor School District 17c.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

The Brookings Harbor School Garden program is a means to enrich students' education, from kindergarteners to highschoolers, our school gardens provide a living classroom for students to learn and apply principles taught in the classroom, getting hands-on experiences across all disciplines as well as nutrition and agriculture education.

Our school gardens help children gain familiarity and comfort with the fruits and vegetables they are seeing at meal times. And the Farm to School program allows our kids to receive high-quality nutrition.

Further, maining this funding is important to our community and our students because our school gardens serve as a place of wonderment for our students. Being in the garden, watching a seed sprout, grow, blossom and then fruit gives students a sense of purpose, and sparks passion as they make more connections integrating their learning experience from classroom to hands-on experience.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development.

Further, school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. We have two garden spaces where students can come together with plenty of space between them, outside getting fresh air. The Farm to School Grant has allowed us to build a greenhouse making it possible for students to garden all year long and is big enough to support safe social distancing.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Erin Mahan  
Farm to School Nutrition Exposure Specialist  
Brookings Harbor School District 17c  
Brookings, OR 97415

**From:**  
**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 4:09:06 PM

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**Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:**

I am a school garden coordinator at Whitman Elementary, but I am also a parent. Farm to school grants help fund Growing Gardens, a school garden organization that works with the students at Whitman--one of Portland Public Schools' title 1 schools. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

The garden at Whitman has had some starts and stops over the years. I discovered Growing Gardens when I was searching for solutions to stop the up and down trajectory of Whitman's Garden program. My vision was to develop a whole school approach to gardening: daytime education to support science, math, reading and art in the garden; weekend work parties with whole family activities; and figuring out a way to get the produce from our garden into the community. Building a relationship with this organization has given the school garden at Whitman the financial security it needs to move forward.

We now have a paid garden educator through Growing Gardens. Before March kids and teachers were actively using the garden space on a regular basis. The curriculum that Growing Gardens provides supports science, math, and English Language Learning. Lessons are also easy to adapt for students with special needs. We sent out a survey this year to find out how teachers felt about working with Growing Gardens and 100% of teachers said they were interested in replicating our lessons next year.

Growing Gardens was also able to bring me on board part time to help coordinate community efforts in the garden. This sort of attention and consistency in the garden, built up our community's confidence in the garden, and our work parties started seeing more and more family involvement. Before March we were planning a large Earth Day celebration to plant trees, plant native shrubs in our flower beds, build picnic tables for the garden education sessions, and bring out community organizations to share ways we could be more sustainable as a community.

Then March happened and schools shut down, but Growing Gardens did not stop reaching kids.

My favorite moments during this unique time we all share in history, have been

meeting virtually with my coworkers at Growing Gardens and dreaming up ways to reach kids during the school closure. From these meetings we came up with a plan to make at home garden kits to distribute at school based pantries. These kits have been received with open arms.

In the Spring, we sent out 628 take home garden kits from 8 schools. Kits in the spring included a pot, soil, seeds, a ruler, a visual how to guide, and a Sprout journal. This summer we have plans to send out 745 kits from 11 schools. There are two summer kits--one for growing salad greens and one for making wild flower seed pods for planting. These kits come with a newsletter and links to virtual learning sessions. Even though kids are not in school, Growing Gardens is not done reaching kids in any way they can.

Through these meetings we also drummed up plans to beef up food production in our school gardens when we heard that food security was possibly in jeopardy in our school communities. We compiled a list of food pantries in our area, and weekly harvests from our school gardens go directly to these pantries and out into the communities served by our schools.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

We know from experience that being away from school structure can have negative impacts on students. According to an article titled *Summer Learning Loss: What We Know and What We're Learning* on NWEA.org, " In the summer following third grade, students lose nearly 20 percent of their school-year gains in reading and 27 percent of their school-year gains in math. By the summer after seventh grade, students lose on average 36 percent of their school-year gains in reading and a whopping 50 percent of their school-year gains in math." We do not yet have all the data on what impacts distance learning has had on learning loss, but Growing Garden's insistence on packing up the garden and sending it home with kids helps to support efforts that the schools have made to reach all students during this time.

We should continue to reach those kids in as many ways as we can when we proceed into these next months as pandemic learning surges on. We are already brainstorming ways to safely reach classroom students. Ideas range from socially distant seating marked with hula hoops, to garden science and math lesson kits that could be easily implemented by classroom teachers. And we are also dreaming up safe ways to get our families back into the garden in a safe way so that they can enjoy the social-emotional benefits of the garden.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Corrie Chambers  
Growing Gardens  
Portland,OR



Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a school garden educator with Rogue Valley Farm to School.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. We know that for every \$1 schools spend on local food, \$2 are returned to Oregon's economy.

The current proposed cuts of \$7.8 million to the Farm to School Grant Program, would be devastating to the Farm to School Program. Cuts at that level would not just reduce funding for the expansion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, they would eliminate *all funds* for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and would require taking back \$1.7M in funds that have already been awarded, with no other funding available for this fiscal year, when these funds are needed now, more than ever.

The Farm to School Grant funds provide funding for schools to buy from Oregon farmers and processors. Producers have lost other markets and schools provide needed sales. School meal programs have lost income from paying students and need these funds to continue to buy from Oregon farmers. And Oregon's 770 school gardens are a key to social distancing in schools in the fall.

I have been working with elementary and high school students in school gardens and on farms for almost a decade and this work is dear to my heart and my community. I have watched students transform in the garden space. Their curiosity is heightened, connections with the natural world are abundant, and the youth truly become empowered when they are tasked with relevant tasks that have end results, such as planting seeds and eating the carrots they grow. Children who do not like to sit at desks are often the ones who shine the brightest in the garden or on the farm, working hard and taking leadership roles. The community of teachers, staff and parents are constantly amazed at how many amazing vegetables and fruits the kids try with true enthusiasm, and that many of them are huge salad converts!

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Karen Tassinari  
Rogue Valley Farm to School  
Ashland



# Phoenix-Talent Schools

Excellence For Everyone

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Superintendent of the Phoenix-Talent School District in southern Oregon.  
I am writing on behalf of the school district and myself.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Our district has a very economically disadvantaged student population. Having this nutritional program in our schools is critical to the well-being of our students. It is so important for our students to experience a healthy eating lifestyle and to have the opportunity for outdoor learning. Students and their families are so grateful when they receive a weekly food box. Having this farm fresh food is invaluable to the families who are struggling to make ends meet; most of whom earn minimum wage or have lost their jobs because of the devastation COVID-19 has had on the economy.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to School sales are critical for economic development and helps support our local economies, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. The produce received from the Farm to School program encourages healthy eating which in turn provides better mental health and learning opportunities. Students who experience the school gardens as an outdoor classroom are learning practical life skills necessary for making healthy choices.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Brent Barry, Superintendent

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** to school Wednesday, July 22, 2020  
**Date:** 2:16:55 PM

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I volunteered for this program for several years and I can say unequivocally it is the best learning experience I've ever participated in as a parent of 5, grandparent of 4, teacher, and RN, and organic gardener!  
Don't cut the funds for this outstanding program.  
Anne Daley  
Eagle Point, OR

July 21, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**I am a teacher in Central Point and have witnessed firsthand how Rogue Valley Farm to School has improved the nutritional attitude and wellness of my students for the last 3 years. However, don't just take my word for it. In the spring I asked my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to write about their favorite field trip last schoolyear. Here are a few of their responses (please excuse the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade spelling and grammar):**

1. my favorite field trip was hanly farm. I chose hanly farm because the pizza that we made was delicious. When i went to hanly farm, i learned what basil, mint, and other plants look like. I liked hanly farm because i got to learn many different things. Also, i got to see a new kind of oven. Another reason why i enjoyed going to hanly farm, was that i liked spending time with everyone... and of course, ... the PIZZA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
2. My favorite field trip was the farm. It was my favorite because we made pizza. I learned about flowers. Also, that there are some flowers you can eat. We made pizza with vegetables and cheddar cheese. Then we ate the pizza it was so good.
3. Hanley farm. I think this because of the pizza! it was the most delicious thing I ever tasted! Some of the things we put on it was zucchini, cheese, olives, peppers, (pizza sauce), and I can't remember the rest. We went to Hanley farm to learn about the food system. production to be exact. we learned how much water plants need, how much sun they need, and how much time they need to grow. and some garden advice: don't water the leaves on a hot day.
4. My favorite Field trip was Hanley farm. Because I love all of the gardens and the chickens that they have. I'm also a big fan of cooking and picking out veggies from their garden. I like to learn about the plant system and I learned that the roots take in water from the soil and. Transfers it through the stem and into the leaves. It was also really nice to be outside considering that most people spend every day inside playing video games. I also really liked Hanley Farms because I got to help make our food
5. My favorite field trip was the hanley farm. At the farm there where pumpkins, trees, hens and grapes. I got to eat pizza. it was pretty. there was a stove. the pizza was good. the bus ride home was even better. I got to put stuff on the pizza.
6. Hanley Farm because they taught me how to cut and we got to see rainbow corn and we got to make pizza.

7. I think Hanley farm was best because we got to pick the vegetables and fruits. we got to wash the vegetables and fruits. we got to cut the vegetables and fruits and fed the chickens .we picked corn and rainbow corn and tomatoes zucchini cucumbers and peppers .and best of all is making the pizza and eating it. we played around in the grass like tag .
8. my favorite field trip was Hanley Farm. It was my favorite because we got to see chickens. i learned that there are different colors of corn. and I had fun picking the stuff to make the pizza. I also learned how to mash those warm mushy tomatoes the right way. And I also had fun taking a break and running around.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Jessica McKinnen

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher

Jackson County School District 6

Central Point Elementary

[jessica.mckinnen@district6.org](mailto:jessica.mckinnen@district6.org)





Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 22th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

**Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!**

Farm to School provides essential services to rural areas in Oregon, supports local agriculture and education.

*Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program!*

This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Farm to School programming provides safe, outdoor learning opportunities for children. This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Moy

Director, Vesper Meadow Education Program

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:49:10 PM

**Attachments:**

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I have attached a PDF of my thoughts about taking away funding from our Farm 2 School Program PLEASE DONT DO IT. It has been such a blessing to have this in our community. And to integrate the local food systems into our public schools. It has been such a blessing to so many families. Please read and consider my letter!!

Jolene Stucker

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. This has been a fabulous way to teach children about the fresh farm food and where it comes from. It is vital to keeping a sustainable local food system in our communities.

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Jolene Stucker

303-912-4228

jstuckj@gmail.com



July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing to express our strong support for Oregon's Farm to School Grant program and urge you to protect funding for this vital program that is essential to state's economic stability, farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being and ability to thrive. FoodCorps works alongside schools across the state to connect kids to healthy food in schools through experiential learning, school gardens, and other farm to school activities. We envision a future in which all kids—regardless of race, place, or class—know what healthy food is, care where it comes from, and eat it every day. The Farm to School Grant Program plays a critical role in making this vision a reality.

Farm to school ensures kids get the nourishment they need to thrive while also giving them the tools to build lifelong relationships with healthy foods and Oregon agriculture. Moreover, in the face of COVID-19, school gardens are more important than ever as they serve as a place for students, parents, and the community to gather and learn while maintaining social distancing as students return to schools in the fall. They are also valuable as spaces that support students' social and emotional learning, providing food and comfort for kids and families experiencing trauma, uncertainty, and stress, which many are encountering at higher rates due to the pandemic.

Farm to school sales are critical for economic development. The Farm to School Grant Program can help local economies recover from this economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic by expanding market opportunities for Oregon's farmers, fishers, ranchers, and processors to sell their products to schools. If this program is underfunded, Oregon farmers who had their markets disrupted by COVID-19 risk losing another outlet for their products.

Oregon has long been a national leader in supporting farm to school efforts. This is a moment to prioritize kids' physical and emotional well-being while building on the progress we have made toward a future where all kids have the opportunity to enjoy healthy, nourishing meals every day. How we respond in this critical moment will shape the lives of a generation of kids.

These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon, and kids, schools, and producers who depend on the program. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Zeke Smith  
VP of Programs  
FoodCorps

*get involved*  
FoodCorps.org

*connect*  
(212) 596-7045

*visit*  
1140 SE 7th Ave, Suite 110  
Portland, OR 97214

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Testimony regarding Oregon Farm to School  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 4:33:09 PM

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Esteemed Legislators,

**On behalf of four members of the Ashland School Board, I write to you today to ask you, plea with you, not to eliminate funding for Farm to School programs in Oregon.**

These programs have a far-reaching and positive ripple-effect on providing nutrition for kids, educating kids and communities about agriculture and nutrition, providing hands-on science curriculum for students, and providing economic benefits to rural farmers in Oregon, as well as keeping dollars in our local communities. **Our district maintains a very strong collaborative partnership with Rogue Valley Farm to School (RVFTS), and while we will base my comments on our relationship with RVFTS, we know the impact of which we write, extends to the farm to school programs and communities statewide.**

**Food and nutrition services directors for school districts throughout Jackson and Josephine counties work closely with RVFTS to source locally grown, healthy food for our kids. As for Ashland, the quality and nutrient density of our menus has improved** and in the upcoming school year, RVFTS is planning on as much as \$85,000 to Ashland School District alone, between the \$10,000 in noncompetitive funding and \$75,000 in competitive funding that RVFTS is helping our district to win. **This \$85,000 is no small amount when providing meals to children in our community.**

The Ashland School District and other school districts in the Rogue Valley have been working with RVFTS for more than a decade. In addition to bringing significant financial and nutrition support to school districts including ours, **RVFTS has brought more than \$300,000 to our region via the Oregon Farm to School Bill to help schools purchase locally grown food -- that means supporting local and Oregon farmers, families, and the economy.**

Rogue Valley Farm-to-School education programs:

- Span 5 school districts, including Ashland;
- Serve more than 6,000 students a year;
- Bring more than 2500 students a year out to farms to learn how to harvest food and prepare it to make a delicious meal;

- Work in partnership with schools to build a culture of health through the Digging Deeper School Partnership Program;
- Also have partnerships with ALL of the elementary schools in Central Point School District and Phoenix-Talent School District, as well as Kids Unlimited in Medford and Armadillo Technical Institute;
- Provide weekly garden education programs;
- Work with teachers and schools to build comfort with using the garden as an outdoor classroom;
- Provide monthly Tasting Tables to encourage trying new Oregon-grown fresh fruits and vegetables;
- Bring children out to farms in the fall and in the spring during the most abundant growing and harvesting seasons;
- Support school nutrition staff in sourcing and cooking with fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. (In the Ashland School District alone, RVFTA has helped our nutrition staff to provide more fresh food cooked from scratch in Ashland school meals.)

Often, farm to school programs focus their efforts on schools with high free and reduced lunch numbers and our partner, RVFTS is no different. **We see healthy food as an equity issue and we know our state does too; one of the best investments our communities and schools can make is to invest in healthy food for all children.** Children with good food in their tummies can focus more at school, feel more secure, and are better able to thrive. This should be something we can do for every child. The RVFTS program could not have created the box program funded by federal dollars if Oregon had not invested the money they had in Farm to School these last five+ years. It was the years of working with school districts that made creating that program in less than two weeks possible.

This spring, Rogue Valley Farm to School pivoted when COVID-19 hit and worked with Fry Family Farm to secure a contract with the USDA to provide nearly a million dollars worth of free organic fruits and vegetables to families in need in our region. **They worked with school districts, including Ashland, to provide the boxes alongside school meals, providing 2,000 boxes to families every week for 12 weeks (300-400 distributed in Ashland).**

Another important point -- right now, schools need outdoor learning spaces. That is something farm to school programs excel at. These programs can provide outdoor learning units and activities tied to the standards and the funding from the Oregon Farm to School bill is what makes it possible.

**Please do not eliminate this critical funding. Education funding and farm to school funding work as a hand-in-hand investment in the children, families, and communities of Oregon.** It is possible that the program can sustain \$2-\$3 million in cuts, but not nearly \$8 million.

I know the countless sacrifices and tough decisions you have to make are not easy so thank you for the work you do. And, thank you for making the education and supportive services that the students of Oregon need, a priority.

Sincerely,

Eva Skuratowicz  
Director, Ashland School Board  
[eva.skuratowicz@ashland.k12.or.us](mailto:eva.skuratowicz@ashland.k12.or.us)

Sabrina Prud'homme  
Director, Ashland School Board  
[sabrina.prudhomme@ashland.k12.or.us](mailto:sabrina.prudhomme@ashland.k12.or.us)  
(702) 241-1585

Victor Chang  
Director, Ashland School Board  
[victor.chang@ashland.k12.or.us](mailto:victor.chang@ashland.k12.or.us)

Tomas Monter-Rangel  
Director, Ashland School Board  
[tomas.monter-rangel@ashland.k12.or.us](mailto:tomas.monter-rangel@ashland.k12.or.us)

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** The Impact of Farm to School in our community

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:33:51 AM

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Please find a 5 min video showing the impact of Farm to School funding in our community for your consideration, in preparation for discussions on Thursday, July 23rd.

<https://youtu.be/rUbzRA41zGw>

Thank you for your support and protection of funding for Farm to School!

Sincerely,  
Sheila Foster

| --

**Sheila Foster**

Executive Director

Rogue Valley Farm to School

541-778-7356

P.O. Box 898

Ashland, OR 97520

[www.rvfarm2school.org](http://www.rvfarm2school.org)



Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the executive director of Seed to Table Oregon, based in Sisters, OR. We serve 2000 students throughout Deschutes and Jefferson counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. through farm-based nutrition and science education. The proposed budget cuts of \$7.8M would be absolutely devastating for the health and well-being of all of the students in Deschutes and Jefferson counties and Warm Springs that are currently served by various Farm to School programs. In addition, the funding loss would be detrimental to the local economy, negatively affecting local farmers and wholesale distributors who have worked tirelessly for the past 10 years to implement these programs.

Although there is much uncertainty right now, one thing has become certain - that hands-on education is critical for the continued development and well-being of our students, especially the youngest ones. Currently, Farm to School programming offers a huge light in children's education during this pandemic, as our programming and other farm to school programming may be the only outdoor, safe, and socially-distanced education students receive during this time.

In addition, students' health is more important than ever. The meals that students receive from farm to school meals throughout Deschutes and Jefferson counties and Warm Springs are all subsidized by farm to school funding. This funding is the only funding that allows for salad bars to be full of nutrient dense food. As the majority of students eating these school-provided meals are on the free and reduced meal program, these budget cuts would specifically target cutting nutritious foods to low income families and students throughout the state. This is unacceptable.

Schools and local farmers have worked to establish many relationships for the past 10 years in Deschutes and Jefferson counties and Warm Springs. If this funding were halted, it would mean an immediate stop to these relationships and the economic gains these farmers have made to support our schools. Please do not let all of the hard work put forward into our local food economy be compromised.

We understand that these are hard economic times and appreciate and empathize with the hard choices that our communities must make right now. However, this is not a time to compromise the health of our most vulnerable populations or to put any more pressure on our local food economies, which hold up and provide for our communities. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Thank you for your service.

Audrey Tehan  
Executive Director  
Seed to Table Oregon

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Urgent!: Re: Rogue Valley Farm to School Program/ From: Rebecca Weisse, Resident of Gold Hill

**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 3:52:00 PM

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I am writing to you today to ask that you not defund the Rogue Valley Farm to School program. It is such a good program! It teaches the kids about how to grow food and where food comes from, encourages kids to try new healthy foods, supports school gardens, and provides healthy, fresh, local produce that in turn helps support our local farms. It helps families in the valley who are food insecure obtain healthy food on a weekly basis. Please please PLEASE do not take away this vital service!!! It would be a huge mistake and negatively affect families in the valley who are already struggling due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. To cut funding to food services, right now, of all times, is a terrible idea. Please don't do this!!!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Weisse

(541)855-7059

[RebeccaWeisse7@gmail.com](mailto:RebeccaWeisse7@gmail.com)

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:36:14 AM

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Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

As mandated by HB 2579, I am urging you to continue funding the Farm to School programs across the state. Corporate farms have become a behemoth in the US, reducing the number of small farms across the country.

In our state with a rich history of agriculture and family farms, continuing the tradition through education and engagement of school children will help make sure our future is rooted in mom & pop farms.

Please give farmers and educators the opportunity to continue to educate children in our state, in a safe way outside with their hands in the dirt.

Do NOT remove funding. Cutting funds would be another critical blow to the future of small-scale farming.

Best,  
Jake Patoski  
404 James Circle, Unit A, Talent, OR

## Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am the program director for Sauvie Island Center, and a Farm-to-School educator, ecological and agricultural program developer. I am writing today on behalf of myself and my 10 years of work in the Oregon Farm to School sector. I have worked with rural and urban students alike, for small nonprofits and for two Oregon Universities teaching students of all ages through science, math, Career and technical education (CTE), courses. One common thread in all my work? The Oregon Farm to School Grant program.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

With Sauvie Island Center we bring students from the Portland metropolitan area to a farm and run farm field trips that tie into Next Generation Science Standards and meet with local and state educational requirements. We are able to bring students out to our farm on fully funded field trips who would not otherwise have access to farms or outdoor education.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. We aim to provide a space for students to explore, and learn by providing opportunities for them to be outside in wide open spaces. Nature Deficit Disorder is surely on the rise with multiple months of students being inside due to this Pandemic. Our Field Trips provide an opportunity to reconnect with the natural world, and reduce some of the anxieties brought about by the pandemic.

These resources are needed now more than ever. In addition to providing outdoor learning opportunities, these funds would get fresh food into the students' homes. We send each student who comes to the farm (or learns about the farm digitally) fresh produce, and educational resources that allow them to continue to connect with the natural world post their field trip.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm to School Grant Programs are maintained at some level, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Aliesje M. King  
Sauvie Island Center  
Portland, Oregon

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Farm to School Funding Testimony

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:50:59 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a student with Kalapuya Highschool. "I am writing on behalf of myself and Kalapuya Highschool Association."

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. The funding for the farm is extremely helpful, it is a way to help students learn many things like harvesting and growing crops. Not only does farm crew help students learn farm work but it helps them learn teamwork and communication skills. There is also a trail crew which is a really amazing opportunity. Trail crew is a great way to help out the community and also learn how to use work tools carefully. The work environment at the farm is very helpful for my mental health and I know others would feel the same. It would be terrible not to be able to do produce plus, I feel that produce plus has given me so much joy being able to work with food and help other people out is my dream so getting closer to it feels great.

I strongly feel you should maintain the fund because reducing it would cause a lot of harm for students working at the farm and even students at Kalapuya.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Roxie Wade, Kalapuya Highschool , Bethel, Eugene

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am an educator writing on behalf of The Environmental Center, a community non-profit organization working in Central Oregon. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Farm to school funds have been utilized in our community to purchase food from Oregon farmers to feed our children, meeting a critical need for both students and farmers during the COVID-19 school and business closures. Farmers who may have lost restaurant distributor income were still able to sell to school districts, including ours in the Bend La Pine School District. Children had uninterrupted access to healthy food, often made from scratch with Oregon crops. This spring we were personally able to support families in Redmond coming to get free school meals with garden and nutrition activity packets to do at home, which busy parents were grateful for. This summer we're currently working with small groups of low-income students outside in the garden, arguably the safest space for them to be during this pandemic. Weekly we're purchasing food from local farmers to send home with their families, supporting farmers and the health of our children. This work simply would not be possible without farm to school funds.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. We hope to continue to support schools this fall with support in schools in Redmond & Bend, whether it's outside in their school gardens or supporting garden and nutrition at home for families.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Denise Rowcroft  
Garden for Every School Program Manager  
The Environmental Center



Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, July 22nd, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I live in Medford and have spent time volunteering for different organizations such as Maslow Project and Rogue Valley Farm to School. In the past few months, I have seen the importance of funding to provide fresh, local, and organic produce to the children in our community who otherwise wouldn't have access.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Maintaining this funding is important to my community because not only does it promote education on healthy and sustainable practices, but it also demonstrates our ability to be resilient for each other - that we can still connect and work together during times of uncertainty.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm to School Grant Programs are maintained at some level, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Carmen Proffitt  
Medford, OR

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Farm to school  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:13:20 PM

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**July 20th, 2020**

**Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:**

**Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!**

**The funding keeps farms active and feeds children.**

**Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.**

**My preschool has made use of Farm to School for many years. It is a vital teaching tool for children.**

**During this pandemic, outdoor curriculum is safe and important.**

**This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.**

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

**We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.**

**Thank you,**

**Robin Heald, Founding Director Pomegranate Preschool for the Arts**

**Ashland, OR**

From:

To:

Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:07:56 AM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a parent and a public school employee who focuses on fundraising for the woefully underfunded public school system.

I was so disheartened to hear that funding will be cut for the Farm to School program.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Students urgently need nutritious food, and the chance to connect to the earth and where food comes from.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Tullan

**Tullan Spitz**

Stewardship & Donor Relations Manager  
Department of Strategic Partnerships

**Portland Public Schools**

501 North Dixon Street

Portland, OR 97227

Office: 503.916.3142 | Cell: 503.752.1680

[www.PPS.net](http://www.PPS.net)

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For the latest information on PPS' response to the Coronavirus Epidemic, including food distribution sites and digital resources for students, please visit [pps.net/coronavirus](https://pps.net/coronavirus).

Donate to our Coronavirus Relief Fund: [fundforpps.org/cv19relief](https://fundforpps.org/cv19relief)

July 21st, 2020

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a parent from the Ashland School District. For years, Farm to School funding from the state legislature has supported excellent programs at our schools. This summer, Rogue Valley Farm to School and Fry Family Farm fed our community -- every week providing thousands of boxes of vegetables and fruit -- helping local families and farmers!

PLEASE DON'T TAKE AWAY FUNDING THAT SUPPORTS FARM TO SCHOOL FUNDING - YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

*THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!* We need to keep local food in our school lunch program and value having options to feed our children with the food that is grown in our community.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Printed Name: Greg Dills

Address: 1250 Kirk Lane Ashland, OR 97520

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Date 7/21/20

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a parent with students in the Phoenix-Talent School District

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. This funding is absolutely crucial to our community at this time. Rogue Valley Farm to School has been providing free veggie boxes to all our families. More than ever kids need to be outside and in gardens. Rogue Valley Farm to School is poised to work with the school district to help make going back to school possible with providing outdoor learning support. Students need healthy food to eat while at school. Now more than ever we need to support farmers and keep our communities going economically and provide healthy food at a time when kids need it more than ever!

Here in Southern Oregon we have seen the benefits of Farm to School programs. This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. My children and everyone else I know are filled with anxiety and frustration about school. Farm to School programs can provide social and emotional help and a respite for kids to get their hands in the dirt and be outside. They can support teachers in providing standards based lessons outside. This program is key to our district's plan of being able to have students at school. Even in school is all online, these programs will be able to give students much needed support to be healthy.

These resources are needed now more than ever. Every day we wake up to bad news. I work hard to see the positive and the opportunities in the challenges. Farm to School Programs offer so many benefits and opportunity for solutions. Our children need this, our community needs it, our farmers need it, schools need it. I know these are hard choices when we face budget shortfalls, but this is an investment in our children and in our community that will save us money in the long run and benefit long term health.

I understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm to School Grant Programs are maintained at some level, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Rebecca Slosberg, Phoenix Talent School District, Talent OR

*In addition, an outdoor classroom is one of the ways to help mitigate the effect of the covid-19 pandemic with UV light, space and fresh air abundant.*

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

*Small food networks have been invaluable feeding our community whilst supermarkets remain crowded and staples run low.*

*Engaging our children on farms has been crucial building a relationship between local food and families.*

*This in turn, supports local economies, enriching us all.*

*One of my favourite quotes from our students in Fall 2019 was simply this; when asked how they enjoyed their time learning on the farm they replied: 'This was the best day of my life'.*

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

These resources are needed now more than ever.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.55 million in cuts as long as all of the Farm to School Grant Programs are maintained at some level, as mandated by House Bill 2579.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Deanna Waters Senf  
Educator, Rogue Valley Farm to School, Medford, OR

--

Farm to Cafeteria Co-ordinator

Rogue Valley Farm to School  
[rvfarm2school.org](http://rvfarm2school.org)

'If it came from a plant, eat it;  
if it was made in a plant, don't.'

Michael Pollan

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a Nutrition Services Assistant with Portland Public Schools.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

The link between the Oregon farms and Oregon's school children is so important. The fact that we can serve and celebrate locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats, etc ... to the students of Portland Public Schools makes me proud to do my job. We are so lucky in Oregon to have access to such bounty.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Veronica Ducek, Nutrition Services Assistant, Portland Public Schools, Portland OR - currently preparing & distributing meals at one of the 14 meals hubs operated by PPS during the Pandemic

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. The proposed cuts of \$7.8 million amount to more than half of the total funding, and would be devastating. The money helps local farms, and school gardens are a key to social distancing and nourishment as students return to school in the fall.

We need this program more than ever. We understand that budget cuts are needed. But please keep the Farm to School Grant Programs going as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Harriett Smith

July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a member of the community who is fortunate to be able to afford food, but I know people who depend on the Rogue Valley Farm to School program to be able to feed their families.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

Here in Southern Oregon many families have lost their livelihoods due to Covid-19, and the food boxes provide an essential part of their daily diet, so they need these resources more now than ever. In addition, restaurant demand is way down, so farmers also rely on the program so they're not just throwing away food they couldn't otherwise afford to harvest.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but not more than that.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Patricia Somers  
Ashland, Oregon

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

As a resident of Ashland, Oregon I can tell you that the farm to school program is a critical part of our community and Rogue Valley. Please protect Farm this funding, as it is vital to our community!

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Kann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jacob Kann

Dr. Jacob Kann  
374 Idaho St.  
Ashland, OR 97520  
541482-1574

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Butler

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**Have you sat in line at Kids Unlimited on Thursday's when the Farm to School box is handed out? The line wraps around the block. This is at one location every week. Not only has this program been a blessing for so many families during this crisis, it has given families like my own an opportunity to try fruits and vegetables we wouldn't have been able to otherwise. It has inspired creative cooking and family activities to develop kid friendly recipes. To take this away would be a travesty on so many levels. When school was in session, my children left school each week with fresh fruits and veggies that they would have never tried elsewhere. It expanded their tastes and has given them the opportunity to make safe and informed decisions on what fruits and vegetables they enjoy.**

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.  
WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

**Sherri Zucker, mother of 3 school children attending Medford Unified School District**

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a farm-based educator, employed by the Supa Fresh Youth Farm in Tigard. I work with marginalized and underserved youth in our community, offering far more than land-based skills and sustainable agriculture techniques. Through our program, youth receive much needed work readiness training, connection to vital resources, and an ability to make a difference in their own lives and in those of their communities. This is in addition to any number of immeasurable outcomes that I see in my students everyday—growth in confidence and empowerment, a sense of belonging, pride in themselves and their work. Farm to School funding provides significant support for our program, and I'm writing today to ask you to please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and the well-being of Oregon's youth and their families.

Through Supa Fresh, Farm to School funding supports increased educational opportunities for underserved youth and increases food access for the greater Tigard-Tualatin community. In my position, I facilitate project-based learning with youth as we engage with community partners, including Tigard High School's Packed with Pride program, which delivers our fresh produce and other food items directly into the hands of families dealing with food insecurity. Additionally, my youth recently began working with Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH), where they plan and implement garden-based educational programming for young children residing in low-income housing complexes. While working with CPAH, the youth also plan to build garden beds and develop a mobile farm stand that will increase affordable access to fresh produce while also educating residents about growing their own food. By supporting our youth through Farm to School funding, you are supporting the leaders of tomorrow—those who will actively engage in the world around them in order to make it a better place. Please choose to support them by protecting Farm to School.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for far more than my own position and program. They are essential to so many incredible organizations in Oregon, who tirelessly work to better the lives of those in their communities. They support economic development, underserved youth, food access and security, and outdoor education that is key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for Farm to School in Oregon. Know that such devastating cuts will directly result in increased unemployment, increased food insecurity, and a decline in the health and wellness of our Oregon youth, schools, and communities. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Shea McWhorter  
Farm Educator  
Supa Fresh Youth Farm  
Tigard, OR

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

It is horrifying to me that during a time when tens of thousands of kids are relying on food from their schools for meals during an ongoing pandemic, with no clear end in sight, our state legislature is considering cutting a program which helps to provide not only fresh fruit, veggies, and grains to those children via their schools, but one which supports our local farmers which have always been integral to the State of Oregon's economy.

By defunding the Farm to School program you're endangering both the health and well-being of our children, while undercutting a key component of our local, regional, and statewide economies.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Further, as a space for learning that is centered on outdoor education, the Farm to School program allows us to have an actual school space where we can better guarantee the health and safety of our children than sticking them back indoors while we are facing ongoing and increasing transmission of a virus that can and has killed children.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579. I understand you all thought this was an easy area to cut, but how about cutting or defunding overly compensated police departments, or instituting a partial furlough for higher government staff who have more than enough in the way of pay to survive such a cut.

That you all looked to the people of Oregon to absorb even more hardship during this horrific period, rather than having to make any choices that might have made you unpopular with high level donors and/or lobbyists is disgusting and immoral.

Do the right thing, keep funding that helps the constituents you're elected and appointed to represent.

Kathryn Lundquist, Medford, OR

Judy Sims, Educator  
Garden/Food Education Program Development  
3631 SW Admiral Street  
Portland, OR 97221  
judygardens@gmail.com

July 20, 2020

To: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Attention: Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Committee Members  
RE: Oregon's Farm to School Program

I am a retired teacher volunteering in garden/food education at Portland's Bridlemile Elementary School. I am writing on behalf of the school's Learning Gardens committee and many dedicated staff and parents who are excited about and support curriculum and programs available through the statewide Farm to School Grant Program.

I have attended statewide Farm-to-School annual symposiums and some "hub group" meet-up gatherings the last couple years. It has been so very exciting to learn about and speak with people from throughout the state on inroads made towards implementing Farm to School program objectives.

I therefore urge you to do all you can to protect this funding, which is critical to the state's economic stability, food justice and children's well-being, and the livelihood of the farmers' who have become integral to the success of Farm to School food service. During the current pandemic, these programs, including school gardens which offer valuable social distance learning, are more important than ever, and most certainly deserve your financial support—more now than ever!

I certainly understand that budget cuts are necessary. The Farm to School Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million would most certainly be devastating for Oregon's farm to school's reaching the impact that has thus far been achieved. I therefore urge you to please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Judy Sims  
Volunteer Garden Educator/Retired Elementary Teacher  
Bridlemile Elementary School's Learning Gardens Committee  
Portland, OR

Please protect Farm to School Grant Program  
Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:54:54 PM

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To Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Sarah Herndon. I am a parent of 2 young children, and I am also a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) for the children of Jackson County.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. There are a lot of exceptional family farms in this area. My family would typically go to farmer's markets or visit the family farms directly to purchase produce from them, but like many people, we are avoiding large public gatherings or unnecessary errands as much as possible. In some cases, the free produce boxes being handed out to the community have allowed us to postpone a shopping trip. We also know that because this is a grant program, the businesses we would usually support are still getting aid from the state to stay afloat. A lot of Jackson County jobs are in the service industry, whether those jobs be in retail, other minimum-wage jobs, or healthcare. Parents need all the help they can get to provide healthy food for their children, especially in a time of economic insecurity and when simply going to the grocery store poses a potential risk for contracting COVID-19.

As a CASA, I have picked up and delivered (while social distancing and wearing a mask) produce boxes to the families of children I represent. Even if I can't be as engaged as I was before the pandemic, this is still a way for me to drop by, check in, help families who may be struggling with their finances, and ensure that I am helping make sure the children I represent have access to healthy fresh food. They are counting on these fresh produce boxes to help them make ends meet.

Please, this is a truly tangible and meaningful way that the state of Oregon is helping its citizens withstand this crisis. Everyone is so grateful and full of joy to receive these fresh produce boxes. I really can't pinpoint a more specific, bipartisan, and immediately effective way that the state of Oregon has positively contributed to the Rogue Valley than this exact program. I understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for farm to school in Oregon. Please continue to fund the farm to school program.

Best,  
Sarah Herndon  
Central Point School District Parent  
CASA of Jackson County

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a school garden educator with the nonprofit Grow Portland.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Last school year I had the privilege of working with over 1,000 students in Portland Public elementary school gardens. Since schools shut down those gardens have produced nearly 800 pounds of fresh produce that has gone directly to families in those school communities.

I have witnessed firsthand the therapeutic and invigorating effects of learning and tasting in a school garden. These experiences would not be possible without support from this grant program, especially for Title I schools who arguably benefit the most from these types of programs.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

School gardens are extremely effective as outdoor classrooms, but in order for teachers and students to utilize them they absolutely require the maintenance and expertise provided by the educational programs and positions funded by the Farm to School Grant Program.

These resources are needed now more than ever.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Madeline Miller  
Grow Portland

--

Madeline Miller, M.S.Ed.  
School Garden Educator  
**Grow Portland**  
503-784-2492

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a School Garden Coordinator for Douglas County as an AmeriCorps member serving with Oregon State University and Blue Zones Projects.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is extremely important to the community for food security, health and education. The gardens provide food either used for the school lunches, school garden cooking classes or summer camp packets. The garden classes provide applied learning of topics covered throughout the school year and encourage kids to explore with science and math. Not only are the classes and afterschool programs full, but the summer camp packets given out, due to COVID, are very popular and valued. The youtube educational videos I have been personally creating for my students and others have upwards to 900+ views. Garden education related programs and nutrition education programs are crucial to this community.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Due to COVID the schools gardens will need more funding since having volunteers and donations will be more challenging and money for cleaning supplies will increase. As a result of the positive feedback and the large audience of the online lesson it is critical to keep them going, however we will need gardens and funding to do so. Being outside and learning may be the best and safest learning environments for students in the upcoming year. Therefore, this is the best time to put more money, possibly than ever, into the school gardens to make outdoor classrooms or learning spaces that continue the core education and builds on applied learning while increasing confidence and real life problem solving.

These resources are needed now more than ever. The schools I work at need new beds or bed repair, one needs a fence to protect the plants from deer while providing a space to trellis vegetables. The gardens will need money for seeds and soil, as well as new educational supplies.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but not more than that.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Halie Cousineau

AmeriCorps member serving as the School Garden Coordinator in Roseburg, OR

M.A. Candidate in International Environmental Studies. | Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

M.A. in International Studies | Asian Studies: Southeast Asia | Ohio University

[\(860\)-941-5070](tel:(860)941-5070)

[dcgardenhub@gmail.com](mailto:dcgardenhub@gmail.com)

[halie-cousineau.squarespace.com/](http://halie-cousineau.squarespace.com/)

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Organic Garden Program Intern for Huerto de la Familia (The Family Garden). We are a Eugene-based non-profit that provides organic garden plots to low-income, Latino folks. We have a membership of 120+ households, who care for 240 community garden plots in seven community gardens located throughout Lane County.

Teaching hands-on nutrition and gardening from a young age is instrumental in creating healthy habits and food security. Our community faces food insecurity that is combated through early education the Farm to School Grant Program supports.

Please protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is especially crucial in the face of the COVID-19. School gardens are the key to hands-on education as students return to school in the fall. Gardens allow for ample space to social distance, while also providing tactical learning experiences that are otherwise difficult amid COVID.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be **devastating** for Farm to School in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Packer

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Organic Garden Program Intern  
Huerto de la Familia  
Eugene, OR

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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To the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,  
I am a parent with Dufur School District #29.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Wasco County is an agricultural community. Having local food on the table at school meals connects our children to their home like nothing else can.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. There is hardly a subject you can't use the garden to explore, and the stress-reducing benefits of time spent in nature are priceless to our youth during this tumultuous time.

These resources are needed now more than ever, with so much at stake.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program!

**Thank you for your service.**

Ursula Schaefer  
Dufur School District #29, Wasco County

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*Ursula Schaefer*  
*Program Secretary*  
*North Central Public Health District*  
*(541) 506-2623*  
*419 E 7th St.*  
*The Dalles, OR*  
[ncphd.org](http://ncphd.org)

[jumpinthegorge.org](http://jumpinthegorge.org)  
[happyconfidenttested.com](http://happyconfidenttested.com)  
[NCPHD on FB](#)  
[NCPHD on FB Español](#)

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Master Gardener Coordinator for Curry County and one of our most direct areas of outreach in gardening education is to kids in our schools. We work hard to not only maintain the school gardens as teaching resources, but to get kids out in them with hands-on learning opportunities, one of the few chances that they have to use math and science that they learn in the building in developing skills and appreciation of our amazing coastal environment.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! **This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. The kids are able to grow vegetables on and to actually realize the fruits of their labor as they eat their lunches.**

**Hopefully, they can also bring these skills home and garden with their families and to also use in the future.**

**Previous funding has helped support garden coordinators like the one we had for just over a year; she was an especially gifted communicator able to coordinate classroom learning in our wonderful community resource, and we hope that funding can again be achieved to have another person who will be able to play this special role and take what happened in the school gardens to a higher level.**

Gardening is a great way to gather and to work together, a source of exercise' and a unique way to engage during the present COVID-19 pandemic as well. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

Given the present need for eating healthy foods and in decreasing food insecurity in rural communities, these resources are needed now more than ever.

Thanks for your consideration as you budget during incredibly difficult times.

Scott

**Scott Thiemann**

Master Gardener Program Assistant

Curry County Extension Service

[scott.thiemann@oregonstate.edu](mailto:scott.thiemann@oregonstate.edu)

P.O. Box 488

29390 Ellensburg Avenue

Gold Beach, Oregon 97444

**Phone:** 541-247-6672 **Fax:** 541-247-2875

Toll free: 1-800-356-3986

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education

Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a community member and the Deputy Director of CASA of Jackson County in Medford. I am writing on behalf of many people I know in this community who suffer from food insecurity. The Farm to School Grant program has helped countless families with whom we work as CASAs, including some of our state's most vulnerable children who are in the system of DHS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

If this program were to be defunded, the food insecurity rates for our community would climb and children and families who rely on this program would suffer. We need to protect our most vulnerable and this is an excellent way to support local farmers while supporting families in crisis. Our government must see that it is incumbent upon them to speak up for the marginalized, voiceless, and powerless. Please do not defund this program; lives literally depend on it.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Wenonoa Spivak, Medford

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Wenonoa Spivak, M.Ed.; EdD., ABD  
Doctoral Candidate, Second Language Acquisition/TESOL  
University of Cincinnati

Adjunct instructor - Center for ESL, University of Cincinnati  
(503) 899-8044

[wenonoa.spivak@gmail.com](mailto:wenonoa.spivak@gmail.com)

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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I am an Education Specialist for Mt. Hood Community College Early Head Start. I work in the “Child Care Partnerships” model which pairs our Early Head Start resources and staff with existing child care programs in our community.

**Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon’s Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state’s economic stability, our farmers’ livelihoods, and children’s well-being. The learning that takes place in these school gardens is essential to childhood!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. All of the learning domains can be supported and facilitated in the gardens! Math, Language, Cognitive development...it happens with every seed planted, watered, grown and harvested!

These resources are needed now more than ever as the opportunity for this generation of children is sorely impacted by COVID-19 as well as the fight for social justice...gardening provided an opportunity to work toward health and equity!

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but not more than that.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

DyLynn Robertson, Education Specialist  
Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships  
MHCC Child Development and Family Support Programs  
11715 NE Glisan, Portland 97213  
(503) 719-7353 x 11 or (503) 405-5656 cell

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am an Operations Supervisor with Beaverton School District's Nutrition Services Department. I am writing on behalf of myself and the Nutrition Services Department of the Beaverton School District.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

We have multiple Farmer Partnerships that rely on our purchases to keep their business a float. We have been workign with smaller farms to purchase local foods even though they cannot supply enough for all of our 52 school sites. We are passionate about getting local fruits and veggies from nearby farms as the quality is fabulous and the foods are packed with more nutrition as they are consumed most of the time a day or two after harvest instead of travelling from miles away. The farmers that we work with are also passionate about getting their produce to nearby schools.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

These resources are needed now more than ever. During the COVID pandemic during the school year, our department felt the pinch while we paid staff to work while they were not able to and our participation for meals dropped significantly. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for farm to school in Oregon. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

**Lisa M Vincent**

Operations Supervisor  
After School Supper Program & Summer Food Service Program  
Farm 2 School Coordinator

**Beaverton School District** | Nutrition Services  
10740 NE Walker Road, Entrance D1, Hillsboro, OR 97006

Office: 503-356-3969 | Mobile: 503-313-0689



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Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding, as it's vital to our community!

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

My elementary-age children have both been able to participate in local Farm to School programs, and seeing them try, enjoy, touch and talk about local foods and farming is priceless. Our children's health is at stake -- their physical health and well-being needs to be a priority, and the education and opportunities they receive through Farm to School programs are setting them up for a lifetime of healthful, conscious decision making when it comes to their food.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

I understand that budget cuts are needed, but please keep the Farm to School Grant Programs going as mandated by HB 2579!

Rachel Koning, Parent  
Ashland, Oregon  
(541) 601-8031

--

Rachel Koning  
p: (541) 601-8031  
e: [rachelwkoning@gmail.com](mailto:rachelwkoning@gmail.com)

July 21st, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding for it has been vital to our community! Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and the well-being of families and children, including nutritious food!

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. **WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Thank you,

Susan Viani  
Retired Ashland School District teacher  
Volunteer with ASD children  
Ashland, Oregon

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Please keep Farm to School Grant  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:58:36 AM

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To the Joint Ways and Mean Committee, Co-Chair McClain and Frederick,

I am a parent of three boys in Southern Oregon. During this pandemic I have lost work, and because I am self-employed, I still have not received government assistance. Food security has been on the forefront of my mind. Because of health issues, we are unable to utilize the free school breakfasts and lunches. We have some food allergies that make my children sick if they eat the meals provided. We were delighted to have this program provide fresh, local, organic produce that my family could eat. It was a major relief to have food provided that would not make us sick.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Teaching children the importance of growing your own food is paramount during this time. Now more than ever, these skills need to be taught to our youth.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Christine Rackley, BS, LMT

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Please Maintain Support of Farm to School!

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:13:34 PM

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Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a Youth Grow garden educator with Growing Gardens. I am writing on behalf of my children, myself, my community, Growing Gardens, and Faubion Elementary School in the Portland Public School District.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, children's well-being, and is a crucial step towards undoing racism in Oregon.

**I believe in undoing racism by starting at one of its roots: our public education/public food system.** My community in NE Portland suffers greatly from institutionalized racism, the effects of which manifest in our precious kids. I believe that empowering students to grow their own food, and take control of their own nutrition, will ultimately benefit the economic stability of our state.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school programs empower communities, bringing healthy, fresh food to communities in which food insecurity is an epidemic. Furthermore, Farm to School teaches children food growing skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. **Join me in proactively addressing the hungry bellies of our state's most vulnerable children and families by maintaining support of Farm to School.**

**We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts,** but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for Farm to School in Oregon, and devastating to children and families that need food security more than ever.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

**Thank you for your service!**

Elizabeth (Betsy) Lattig, Growing Gardens, Portland Public School District, Portland

--

Betsy Lattig  
Youth Grow Educator at Faubion Elementary  
[Growing Gardens](#)  
503.231.9146

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Please Protect Farm to Schooo Funding

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:57:46 AM

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## Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Meal Benefits Program Specialist for the Beaverton School District. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and the wellbeing of children.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. With so many parents out of work, we need to continue to provide healthy, nutritious foods to Oregon children via as many avenues as we can.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Laurie Bishop  
Meal Benefits Program Specialist  
Nutrition Services Department  
Beaverton School District  
10740 NE Walker Road  
Hillsboro, OR 97006  
(503)356-3957  
[Laurie\\_Bishop@beaverton.k12.or.us](mailto:Laurie_Bishop@beaverton.k12.or.us)

*Laurie Bishop*

Meal Benefits Program Specialist  
Nutrition Services  
Beaverton School District  
(503)356-3957

"Civil rights are civil rights. There are no persons who are not entitled to their civil rights. We have to recognize that we have a long way to go, but we have to go that way together." – Dorothy Height

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**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** PLEASE protect funding for Farm to a school

**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:09:39 AM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a concerned citizen, childhood educator, farmer, and climate justice advocate. I am writing on behalf of myself.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Access to fresh, locally grown, organic food has the ability to change lives. Not only does fresh food access decrease chronic illness and associated medical costs for both individuals and city health organizations, it strengthens the resiliency of local food systems, which keeps farmers in work and protects the health of the environment.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Aliza Lieberman-Barnard

Portland, Oregon

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Please Save Farm to School!!!  
**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:44:32 AM

---

I am a caring and concerned citizen who wants the best for our youth and our country. I am writing to sincerely request you do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This is vital that we support our communities in this way! Youth have different learning styles and whether or not your children will ever attend, so many families benefit from these kinds of programs.

This funding is especially critical with the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales aid in economic development which is wonderful but school gardens are also a beautiful avenue to practicing social distancing now and as students return to school after summer.

While some cuts may be necessary, the Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts... that said, the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please, please, please do all that you can to protect this funding for the Farm to School Grant Program so that our state and youth can thrive in these unprecedented times.

Thank you for your service to all of the community and our wellbeing.

Jane Backen  
Juvenile Justice Specialist  
Eugene, OR

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Project funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:12:56 PM

---

Co-chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a youth worker with Supa Fresh Youth Farm.

Please do all that you can to protect Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to Schools Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Ivette Hernandez , Supa Fresh Youth Farm, Tigard

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Project funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:08:44 PM

---

Co-chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a youth worker with Supa Fresh Youth Farm.

Please do all that you can to protect Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to Schools Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Jacob Cox, Supa Fresh Youth Farm, Tigard

Sent from my iPhone

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Protect Funding for Farm to School : written testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:33:48 PM

---

July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I am a retired pediatric physical therapist and award winning Ashland filmmaker who has been moved to write a letter on behalf of the Rogue Valley Farm 2 School Program. I have a past history of having volunteered for RVF2S in the field with grade school children and am currently making a film about their heroic efforts to provide food directly to families in this time of Covid.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding sustains local farmers who provide freshly harvested produce that goes into food provided through the schools which ultimately feeds thousands of food insecure children and families.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Children learning about growing food is fundamental to their health and wellbeing.

These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for farm to school in Oregon.

Thanks in advance for considering a sustainable level of funding for the program.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Roselli, Producer/Director K-Rose Productions

Here is a private YouTube link that brings to life this key program in Southern Oregon:  
<https://youtu.be/rUbzRA41zGw>

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:10:41 AM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Executive Director for Blue Zones Project Umpqua in Roseburg. I am writing on behalf of myself and our Food Policy Council.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. It has touched hundreds of children's lives in our community, strengthened the tie to our rich agricultural heritage in the Umpqua Valley and has greatly impacted the welfare of our local farmers. Agriculture and agricultural education is a very important backbone and of our local economy and future.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Blue Zones Project has partnered with Thriving Waters, OSU Extension, and Roseburg Public Schools to invest in continuing these programs because we believe they are so important. But we can't do it alone without the additional funding from Oregon's Farm to School.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

**Jessica Hand, MPH | Executive Director**

M: [541-816-1726](tel:541-816-1726) | [jhand@efmpc.com](mailto:jhand@efmpc.com)

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**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:38:34 AM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a garden educator and former field coordinator for the Food for Lane County Youth Farm in Springfield.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Michaela Hammer  
97402, Eugene, Oregon

--

Read my farm-based nonfiction at [www.hammerandsoil.com](http://www.hammerandsoil.com)

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:30:59 AM

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I am the Farm to School Coordinator for McMinnville School District. We have nine schools in McMinnville and Lafayette with 6739 registered students. We are a district serving a high number of underprivileged and low income families. Five of the six elementary schools operate under CEP (Community Eligibility Program).

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and student nutrition. We rely on these funds to purchase locally and direct and farmers.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

**Jeri Paull**

**Nutrition Services Manager**

*McMinnville School District Nutrition Services*

Office: 503-565-4047

Emergency Cell: 503-435-9523

Fax: 503-565-4044

[jpaul@msd.k12.or.us](mailto:jpaul@msd.k12.or.us)



"Whatever you are, be a good one." Abraham Lincoln



**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 1:19:08 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am an educator with the Bethel School District at Kalapuya High School. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

The Bethel Farm has been a life-line for students at Kalapuya High School. I have seen students come into our program struggling in school, relationships, and mental-health and find their niche at the Farm. The Farm has brought purpose into their lives, as we feed the community with the food we grow and educate along the way.

Throughout the Covid-19 crisis, I have been working on the Bethel School District Farm. We are the only program within the District that has been able to continue operating in-person through the pandemic. The students that we have been able to include in our program have expressed gratitude in the ability to leave the house and come to a safe space everyday. They have been working to grow food for the Bethel Community through this crisis and have thus far been able to hand-out over 2000 lbs of free produce.

The Oregon Farm to School Grant Funding keeps this program going and others. We have staff at our high school who are funded by this grant. The Kalapuya High Schoolers host field trips that introduce students of all ages to the Bethel Farm. The Summer Farm Crew runs free summer camps for local students. Last week, I even had to opportunity to do bee-keeping with students while following social distancing and hygienic protocols. This is experiential and outdoor education at its best.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

I understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Claire Kerwin.

Crew Leader and Educational Assistant

Bethel School District

Eugene, Oregon

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 1:19:09 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a Sustainable Agriculture Educator with the Bethel School District. I support the Bethel Farm project- a 3 acre production and educational farm.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Never has there been a more important moment to produce food for our communities and educate our children about where their food comes from. Our program currently supplies thousands of pounds of produce to families in need in our community and this number is only growing. Not only are we actively feeding those who are hungry in our community, we educate families about how to grow their own food. In addition, the therapeutic benefits of gardening and farming are extensive and massively important to our students as the stress and uncertainty of the world and their lives increases.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Molly Bullock  
Sustainable Agriculture Educator  
Kalapuya High School, Bethel School District

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:02:44 PM

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Good Afternoon,

I am a community partner that supports the farm to school work in Klamath County. I am writing on behalf of myself and the Healthy Klamath Coalition.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Maintaining this funding is important to our community, because we have multigenerational farmers that have built this community. Some of our farmers would be devastated with a loss of sales in any capacity. By having farm to school funding available in our community has increased knowledge, access and demand for local food.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. Our schools need the funding to continue the education around how kids can grow their own food, lessening their chance to be food insecure. By teaching our students how to garden, they are learning a life skill that will help them for the rest of their life and without farm to school funding it would not be possible.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Kelsey Paige Mueller  
Healthy Klamath-Blue Zones Project  
Klamath Falls, OR

Kelsey Mueller - Policy Manager  
C: 541-827-9442 -- [kelsey.mueller@healthyklamath.org](mailto:kelsey.mueller@healthyklamath.org)  
2701 Foothills Blvd, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

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"Be the change that you wish to see in the world." –Mahatma Gandhi



**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:03:12 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the garden program supervisor at Serendipity Center therapeutic school in Portland and I am writing on behalf of myself and our organization. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Serendipity serves students with some of the most complex needs from 23 Portland area school districts. Our mission is *to provide the best environment for our students to heal, and become educated, productive community members* and Serendipity's half acre school garden and corresponding farm to school program are integral to that mission. Our garden is a sanctuary where students learn to be stewards of the land through the practice of growing their own food and work to heal their bodies and minds in the process. A majority of our kids come to us with a history of trauma that empirical evidence shows will lead to negative future health outcomes if not addressed. Self-care through mindfulness, exercise and healthy eating habits are key elements to cultivating resilience and helping our students thrive.

Serendipity's Growing Minds Garden program is founded on the idea that kids who grow vegetables will eat them and this principle plays out daily for our students. Time and time again parents have told me how their child would not touch vegetables before coming to Serendipity, but will happily eat anything grown in our garden. During the COVID-19 crisis we have continued to ensure that our students have access to fresh produce by coordinating deliveries of garden vegetables coupled with shelf-stable items to families experiencing food insecurity. This is just one example among hundreds of school gardens across our state all growing more than just vegetables, they are cultivating future generations of eaters who will demand local sustainably grown produce and support Oregon's food system in the process.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

**Nicolas Townsend, MS** | Garden Program Supervisor

Serendipity Center, Inc. | [www.serendipitycenter.org](http://www.serendipitycenter.org)

Direct 503-595-2794

Cell 503-468-7711

Campus: [14815 SE Division Street Portland, OR 97236](https://www.google.com/maps/place/14815+SE+Division+Street+Portland,+OR+97236) | Mailing: PO Box 33350 Portland, OR 97292

**he/him/his**

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**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:18:45 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I, Kathleen C. Barry, am a school garden coordinator and garden educator with Growing Gardens. I currently work in the Reynold's School District.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

I help teach elementary students how to garden. I give them an opportunity to learn in an outdoor learning environment that is not readily available to all of them. I give them a calm environment that I believe provides therapy while interacting in the garden. I help grow food with them to give to their families.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. I have been growing food at this time and giving it to our local pantries. The students benefit from this learning environment. It teaches them about sustainability and how to forever grow foods for their futures.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Kathleen C. Barry  
Growing Gardens  
Reynolds School District

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:24:38 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a parent and a child nutrition researcher and registered dietitian. I am writing to express my concern about potential decreases in funding for farm to school. This funding is critical to supporting nutrition for our state's children. I have been working in the field of nutrition for 20 years and for 20 years, the prevalence of childhood obesity has been increasing, especially in communities of color. Farm to school is one of the only school-based interventions that show real promise in promoting healthy eating habits. We know providing children with nutrition education only does not work. What works is providing nutrition education and increasing access to nutritious foods in school meals. Why does it matter if the food is local? It matters because local often tastes better (due to a variety of factors, which I won't go into here) and because when kids have a connection to the people who grew their food, food becomes "cool" and as you know, kids will eat and enjoy cool foods.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. Our state is a model for the rest of the country. Cutting funding now when children are at even greater risk for food insecurity will hurt our state's most vulnerable communities.

Sincerely,

Betty

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 4:02:20 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a student with Kalapuya High School. I am writing on behalf of myself and Kalapuya High School.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

As someone who is currently working on the farm I get to help out the community by growing and harvesting food for the produce plus program on Friday. Also because this is my first job I prefer to think of it as an opportunity to prepare myself for what to expect once I finish school and start job hunting.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. The supervisors make sure that our health is their priority and check our temperature and ask us questions every day at the gate to make sure that no one had contact with any one who might have had COVID-19 so that we can work in a safe environment.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Ryan J. Paulus, Kalapuya High School, Eugene



**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:36:45 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a high school principal at a small public high school in Oregon. Our school manages and runs the Bethel Farm in Eugene, Oregon.

I am writing to ask that you do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. During this COVID-19 shutdown, our Farm to School Program has been one of the only things functioning in our entire school district.

The Bethel Farm has been a product of Oregon's Farm to School grant funding – and quite simply would not exist without those funds.

While our spring elementary field trips have been put on hold, our work on the farm and our work to support students and families has not. Now, because of the maturity of our farm, we are able to work through COVID times to address new challenges and to provide additional supports to our community.

**Produce Plus:** Even before the Coronavirus pandemic, the viability of our regional Produce Plus program (a local food pantry supported by our local food bank, Food for Lane County) was at risk. The Bethel Farm was well-situated to take over this program, and in September, we moved the weekly food distribution to our barn. This allowed the produce and dried goods from FFCL to be coupled with produce from the farm in seamless delivery to families in need. Even in the winter, with the farm producing very little produce, we were able to support families, as squash grown on our farm was processed and canned in the FFCL warehouse and distributed at our site. COVID-19 rattled food banks, and FFCL closed all Produce Plus sites in the county except the Bethel Farm site. Instead of shutting our program, we asked to increase the distribution of food from one to two days per week. In addition to providing food from the farm, we have been distributing a variety of vegetable seed packets to families, which have been very popular and appreciated. To protect Kalapuya staff and the public to the greatest extent possible we shifted the delivery from the barn to a drive-thru model, which is working quite well. Demand has spiked and every Tuesday and Friday our farm opens to a line of cars that wraps around the block. **Where once we served 100 families per week, we now serve nearly 700 families every week.**

**Ramped up Veggie Start Production to Meet Emergency Need:** When we got our first indication that this 'new normal' could last months, we immediately changed our greenhouse propagation plans and seeded as many quick-growing, nutritious starts as possible. We transplanted these to the farm and have been providing these vegetables to families every week. We also substantially increased the number of our annual 'Mother's Day' plant sale vegetable starts and donated over 3,000 vegetable starts to the community this spring – with Huerto de la Familia families (who have a community garden on our farm) having first opportunity to select plants. Our parking lot was completely full from the get-go and had long lines of cars on the road waiting to enter from both directions. It was incredibly heartwarming to see the community step up in such a big way to help us help the community. ?

These activities mentioned above are only the COVID-related activities we have done. I could go on and on about our 'normal' programming that sees hundreds of elementary students rotating through farm activities on their farm field days (led by high school students) – or our summer camps that find students making beeswax candles, harvesting and cooking food straight from the farm for their lunches, or learning about how to grow their own tomatoes at home.

In short, the Farm to School funding makes miracles happen at our school and in our district in ways that no other grant funding has ever allowed. I ask that you do all that you can to keep this funding intact to the greatest extent possible.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. This funding allows students to learn and thrive, helps to feed struggling families during a stressful time.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stefan Aumack  
Principal, Kalapuya High School

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:42:48 PM

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Hi,

I am a teacher and adviser for the Rotary Elmira High School Interact Club. I am writing on behalf of the Elmira High School Interact Club. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

We have a 42% free and reduced lunch population in our Fern Ridge school district. We have been working over 4 years to help our community change the nutrition and food scarcity in our neighborhoods. We have raised funds through the Interact Club, built a greenhouse and sold and given away vegetable starters. In November of 2019 we received the support of the community and school district to build a farm with a local non-profit, Sea Mercy.

This funding is critical to the success of the farm's completion and the education that will be able to take place as the kids are outside on the farm learning and working socially distanced and having a blast doing it. Families in our area need to be inspired to send their kids back to school instead of homeschooling them. They need this farm to teach them about science, art, math, ecology, and so many areas through their food sources, plant names, growth, and farming methods, especially in our ag community. This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

Please vote to protect the funding for the Farm to School program. Thank you. Please check out our website to see what is happening.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hackett

EHS Educational Assistant, EHS Rotary Interact Adviser

[Growingafuture.org](http://Growingafuture.org)

[SeaMercy.org](http://SeaMercy.org)

541-912-5274

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:37:14 AM

---

I am an educator running a farm to school program at Lane County Youth Services.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

I work with at risk youth in a community that rely on food stamps and other assistance to make ends meet. The farm to school education program that is funded through ODE helps me put free, nutritious, organic food directly into clients hands weekly. Something most of them have never had before.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. The source and quality of our food directly impacts our health and likeliness to get disease. By continuing to fund the Farm to School program you are not only investing in these youth's future but also in their future health. Teaching them now that quality vegetables and nutrition in general is important to their wellbeing will save the government thousands if not millions of tax payer dollars in the long run.

*Josh Greenwald*  
*Juvenile Justice Specialist*  
*MLK Education Center*  
*(458) 221-2188*

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LUU Ý: Nếu Quý vị nói tiếng Việt, chúng tôi có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí sẵn dành cho Quý vị. Hãy gọi 1-844-647-6720

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 2:16:57 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a farmer and educator within Clackamas county.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. We know that for every \$1 schools spend on local food, \$2 are returned to Oregon's economy.

The current proposed cuts of \$7.8 million to the Farm to School Grant Program, would be devastating to the Farm to School Program. Cuts at that level would not just reduce funding for the expansion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, they would eliminate *all funds* for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and would require taking back \$1.7M in funds that have already been awarded, with no funding available for this fiscal year, when these funds are needed now, more than ever.

The Farm to School Grant funds provide funding for schools to buy from Oregon farmers and processors. Producers have lost other markets and schools provide needed sales. School meal programs have lost income from paying students and need these funds to continue to buy from Oregon farmers. And Oregon's 770 school gardens are a key to social distancing in schools in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Drake Carnahan

Cheers,

**Drake Carnahan, She, Her, Hers**

*M.S. Candidate, Graduate School of Education, Leadership for Sustainability  
Education Specialization*

*Event Coordinator, Wholistic Educator and Soul Coach, [Drake Nyx](#)*

*Board Vice President, [Conscious Growth](#)*



**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 5:26:27 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

The current rebalance plan which includes cuts of \$7.8 million to the Farm to School Grant Program, would be devastating to the Farm to School Program. Cuts at that level would not just eliminate the expansion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, they would eliminate *all funds* for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and would require taking back \$1.7M in funds that have already been awarded, with no funding available for this fiscal year, when these funds are needed now, more than ever.

The Farm to School Grant funds provide funding for schools to buy from Oregon farmers and processors. Producers have lost other markets and schools provide needed sales. School meal programs have lost income from paying students and need these funds to continue to buy from Oregon farmers. And Oregon's 770 school gardens are a key to social distancing in schools in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

**Kayla Bluhm, Oregon**

--

**Kayla Bluhm**

[kayla.bluhm@gmail.com](mailto:kayla.bluhm@gmail.com)

541.848.9988

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:35:05 PM

**Attachments:**

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

We are writing on behalf of the Oasis Center of the Rogue Valley, a non-profit medical clinic supporting families with addiction.

We understand the immense challenge Oregon faces in making difficult budgetary decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic and ask for you to do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. Not only is this funding critical to the state's economic stability and our farmers' livelihoods, it is important to the health and well-being of children and families experiencing food insecurity.

Our families face many challenges in meeting basic needs and providing healthy food options. Our partnership with a local Farm to School program has provided thousands of pounds of fresh organic produce to our clinic's families along with education, supplies, and positive social connections for parents and children.

Farm to school produce distribution supports some of our most vulnerable community members, sales support local economic development, and school gardens and farms are a healthy way to social distance- especially important as students return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for Farm to School in Oregon.

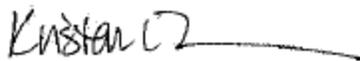
Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Respectfully,



Kerri Hecox, M.D.



Kristen Johnson





Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Farm to School Nutrition Exposure Specialist with Brookings Harbor School District 17c.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

The Brookings Harbor School Garden program is a means to enrich students' education, from kindergarteners to highschoolers, our school gardens provide a living classroom for students to learn and apply principles taught in the classroom, getting hands-on experiences across all disciplines as well as nutrition and agriculture education.

Our school gardens help children gain familiarity and comfort with the fruits and vegetables they are seeing at meal times. And the Farm to School program allows our kids to receive high-quality nutrition.

Further, maining this funding is important to our community and our students because our school gardens serve as a place of wonderment for our students. Being in the garden, watching a seed sprout, grow, blossom and then fruit gives students a sense of purpose, and sparks passion as they make more connections integrating their learning experience from classroom to hands-on experience.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development.

Further, school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. We have two garden spaces where students can come together with plenty of space between them, outside getting fresh air. The Farm to School Grant has allowed us to build a greenhouse making it possible for students to garden all year long and is big enough to support safe social distancing.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Erin Mahan  
Farm to School Nutrition Exposure Specialist  
Brookings Harbor School District 17c  
Brookings, OR 97415

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect Funding for Farm to School!  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:46:33 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am the Food Services Coordinator at Serendipity Center.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Maintaining the funding of this grant program is critical to our community, within this school and to all of whom it touches. This education grant has a far reaching and positive effect on our state and our collective future here in Oregon. By ensuring this funding successfully continues you have made a direct investment into our citizens and the soil we all cherish and rely upon.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall

**Brian Thompsen** | Food Services Coordinator

**Serendipity Center, Inc.** | [www.serendipitycenter.org](http://www.serendipitycenter.org)

Direct 503-595-2752

Campus: [14815 SE Division Street Portland, OR 97236](#) | Mailing: PO Box 33350 Portland, OR 97292

**he/him/his**

[facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [instagram](#) | [growing minds garden](#)

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**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School!

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:19:29 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a school garden coordinator and educator with the Forest Grove School District and EdenAcres Environmental Education.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Every day in my job as a garden educator, I get to see the magic and incredible learning that happens when students are able to use a garden as a classroom. **The invaluable learning opportunities the school garden provides for food and nutrition education, STEAM programs, developmental skills, and community engagement have been achieved largely with the help of the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program in our district.** Not only are garden classrooms amazing opportunities for the students, but for the teachers, families, and greater community of our district.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a KEY to social distancing as students return to school in the fall, and provide safe learning spaces for teachers in the face of alternative learning **THE ACCESS THAT SCHOOL GARDENS PROVIDE TO FREE, ACCESSIBLE FOOD FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES, NUTRITION EDUCATION, AND SAFE LEARNING SPACES ARE NOT DISPOSABLE AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER DURING THIS TIME OF UNCERTAINTY.**

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Tess O'Day

Tess O'Day

[Eden Acres Environmental Education](#)

Forest School Instructor I School Garden Coordinator

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School, written testimony

**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2020 7:35:08 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a Program Assistant for multiple farmers through the NIFA Grant overseen by Oregon Food Bank and Mudbone Grown.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. We know that for every \$1 schools spend on local food, \$2 are returned to Oregon's economy.

The current proposed cuts of \$7.8 million to the Farm to School Grant Program, would be devastating to the Farm to School Program. Cuts at that level would not just reduce funding for the expansion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, they would eliminate *all funds* for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and would require taking back \$1.7M in funds that have already been awarded, with no other funding available for this fiscal year, when these funds are needed now, more than ever.

The Farm to School Grant funds provide funding for schools to buy from Oregon farmers and processors. Producers have lost other markets and schools provide needed sales. School meal programs have lost income from paying students and need these funds to continue to buy from Oregon farmers. And Oregon's 770 school gardens are a key to social distancing in schools in the fall.

*By maintaining the ODE Farm to School Grants for our community, you would be ensuring that the small farmer and producers can serve their local communities. By having the funds available, the small farmer can gain access to land and infrastructure dollars that are so important to growing and maintaining a business that relies on labor and all the systems that keep a farm business running. Through our small farmers and producers having access to the funds, it allows the local economy to grow. It allows for the historically marginalized communities to start to build equity. It helps those who have been failed by structural racism who live in a food apartheid, to be nurtured by their local farmers. With the help of the funds small producers can gain access to those infrastructure dollars that could provide delivery trucks to reach those in their community. This holds true for the Farm to School specifics too. Infrastructure and access are key components whether the food is direct to the school or direct to the homes of those in the community. We are stronger together when we are able to work together to get to the root causes of systemic issues that plague our food system. This funding is too important.*

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Sara Cross, Mudbone Grown



"The land is, was and has always been our healing space and our means of liberation and resistance." Dr. Monica White

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:58:53 AM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing as a concerned Oregonian and parent. Oregon has been an innovator and leader in Farm to School efforts and cuts to this program would impact individuals, families, schools, farmers, and anyone who eats across the state.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! There are many reasons Farm to School initiatives are important to me. Farm to school is in investment with returns including: supporting small and mid sized farms, improving the equitability of access to Oregon's fabulous crops, helping students connect with nature and the food they eat. All of these reasons are important under normal circumstances, but the current pandemic has highlighted the need for a strong and resilient local food system. We have seen just how quickly food shortages can impact us!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school support physical distancing if students are able to return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Best,  
Teresa

Teresa Roark  
503-931-7624  
225 J St. Springfield, OR

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**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding from farm to school

**Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 7:03:54 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a parent in the Corvallis School District

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. We know that for every \$1 schools spend on local food, \$2 are returned to Oregon's economy.

The current proposed cuts of \$7.8 million to the Farm to School Grant Program, would be devastating to the Farm to School Program. Cuts at that level would not just reduce funding for the expansion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, they would eliminate *all funds* for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and would require taking back \$1.7M in funds that have already been awarded, with no funding available for this fiscal year, when these funds are needed now, more than ever.

The Farm to School Grant funds provide funding for schools to buy from Oregon farmers and processors. Producers have lost other markets and schools provide needed sales. School meal programs have lost income from paying students and need these funds to continue to buy from Oregon farmers. And Oregon's 770 school gardens are a key to social distancing in schools in the fall.

*In the past 2 years I have found how important good, nutritious, healthy food is for myself. I'm healthier, have less pain and inflammation. I'm 65. Children shouldn't have to wait to this age to find the importance in good food in their lives*

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Janie Edwards

Corvallis School District



**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Subject: Protect funding for Farm to School

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:03:12 PM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a teacher with Bethel School District.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

I have seen first hand the impact our farm has had on families. It is the site of a produce program that has fed members of our community and been an integral part of student engagement with programs that give back. I have also seen the care on display by both students and staff regarding implementation of safety practices to mitigate and stem the spread of COVID-19. This is a rare opportunity for students and staff to create magic and food despite our current restrictions.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Farm to school sales are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. I would have expected farm programs to be at the bottom of the list of things to cut during this time, as they have an impact on the ability for families in need to obtain critical produce and connection to community. We know as educators the impact food security has on learning, and now more than ever we need to support our students in creative and meaningful ways. This is not the time to cut funding from a place where students directly interact with the food they eat, and where students can more indirectly serve communities in need.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Jack Carpenter, Bethel School District, Eugene Oregon



**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Verbal testimony for Public Hearing July 23rd  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:20:30 PM  
**Attachments:**

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Co-chairs Frederick, McLain and Members of the Committee, ,

My name is Dr. Creighton Helms and I am the Director of Special Education for Gervais School District and the Principal of Gervais Elementary School in the City of Gervais, in Marion County.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihood, and children's well-being.

Gervais Elementary School, much like many other small rural schools in Willamette Valley, has both a greater community and a student body that is deeply connected to agricultural practices. In fact, we have students and families who are entirely dependent on an agrarian life. Given this, like other schools, we have developed a robust school garden space, where our young learners, Kindergarten through 5th-grade, have the opportunity to not just watch their seedlings grow into harvestable fruits and vegetables, but to also learn things like soil science and the water cycle.

At Gervais Elementary, we are a STE(A)M school, which means we are seeking to give our students tangible, engaging opportunities to learn about the world around them. Our garden space gives many of our students, who struggle to find connection in the classroom, a place to increase their engagement and excitement at school. Our garden space has also shown significant value for students who have certain social-emotional obstacles and benefit from having access to a quiet, calming space during the day.

School gardens will be key to social distancing in the fall. Garden educators, funded by ODE's Farm to School Education Grants, will engage with students working socially distanced in the garden, while teachers are in the classrooms with smaller groups.

We understand that budget cuts will be necessary, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be devastating for farm to school in Oregon. Please do all you can to protect this critical funding and each of the Farm to School Grant Programs.

Thank you for your service.

Best,  
cch



[fb.me/GESBeehive](https://fb.me/GESBeehive)



[@GESBeehive](https://twitter.com/GESBeehive)



**Dr. Creighton C. Helms**  
**Director of Special Education, Gervais School District**  
**Principal, Gervais Elementary School**  
**(503) 792-3803 x1020**  
<http://www.gervais.k12.or.us/>



Google for Education  
Certified Trainer

**Creighton Helms**  
Principal  
Gervais Elementary School

[creighton\\_helms@gervais.k12.or.us](mailto:creighton_helms@gervais.k12.or.us)  
503-792-3803 x1020  
[www.gervais.k12.or.us/gervais-](http://www.gervais.k12.or.us/gervais-)



[elementary-school](#)

*Gervais School District is an equal opportunity educator and employer.  
El Distrito Escolar de Gervais es una empresa educadora de oportunidad igual.*

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**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Written Testimony to Defend Farm to School  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:16:08 AM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding as it provides vital opportunities for our communities. If this funding disappears, you will take food away from children and funding from farmers.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

The Farm to School Program encourages children to learn outside where it is safe. Outdoor learning can significantly impact a child's capacity to observe, achieve emotional stability, problem solve, and create. These are the skills that we need for a brighter future.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing and a respite from potential stress inside as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. As our leaders, you must do the work to ensure the Farm to School Grant Programs continue as mandated by HB 2579. Our communities' health and safety depend on your advocacy.

Sincerely,

Jessica Barbini, Farm to School Coordinator of South Central NY

--

Jessica Barbini  
pronouns: she/they

Please call my cell phone for emergencies as I am working from home in light of COVID-19 (3155305312).

*Farm to School Coordinator*  
Food & Health Network Program of the Rural Health Network of SCNY  
<https://foodandhealthnetwork.org/>  
Sign up for our [newsletter!](#)



**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Protect funding for Farm to School (written testimony for Public Hearing July 23rd)

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:59:53 AM

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Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am a parent of a child at Helman Elementary in the Ashland School District.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

These resources are needed now more than ever. We understand that budget cuts will be necessary. The Grant Program can sustain \$2.5-\$3 million in cuts, but the current proposal of \$7.8 million in cuts would be *devastating* for farm to school in Oregon.

Please do all you can to protect this critical funding for the Farm to School Grant Program.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Ashley Olsson

**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 8:38:43 PM

---

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

Mandi Boyer  
Central Point, OR  
School District 6

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

The children prosper in many ways when they can cultivate a relationship to healthy food and environment! This is the most necessary education they can receive!

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579

Sincerely,  
Jessica Eckhoff  
Williams, OR

**Subject:** Written Testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:07:31 PM

---

July 21, 2020

**Attn: Education Subcommittee on Means and Ways**

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.  
WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

**Susan Hirth, Concerned citizen of Ashland, OR**

**ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means**

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Jerry Solomon

Ashland, OR

**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 8:29:07 PM

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means July 20th, 2020  
Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee: Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community! **YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.** Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. **THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!** This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. **WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!** We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Ashleigh Adams

**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:23:57 PM

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

To: Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

Otherwise good food will be taken away from our children and funding away from our farmers. We have such a successful program here. Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM IS CRITICAL FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS! I LOVE THAT IT WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.  
WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. But that is no excuse - Please JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

*Kristina Lefever, Ashland*

July 21st, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**I have taught public school for 20 years, and have never seen this much need for healthy food. All the lunch programs are seeing double the demand, all the families are struggling to make ends meet, and children are hungry without these services. This impacts their ability to learn, their physical development, their immune health, and their family's stress levels.**

**A well fed family has greater resilience to the challenges we are all facing and with disruptions to school, work, and leisure, having stable food sources is a basic need. I have seen mothers brought to tears when realizing they will not be hungry this week, and my own children have benefited from this opportunity.**

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

**David Tourzan**

**Kids Unlimited Academy - Science Director  
Grandmothers Empowerment Project - Founder  
Rogue Valley Farm to School - Board Chair  
395 Granite St.  
Ashland, Or. 97520**

July 21, 2020

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To: Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This is important because the THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE! This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

Thank you!

Ron Parker, President

Ashland Kiwanis Club, Ashland, OR

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**Children in our community need this kind of outdoor education and the opportunity to learn about food systems and the importance of farming fresh local produce.**

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Take this under consideration.

Deanna Mulaskey  
Phoenix Elementary School, Phoenix-Talent School District  
Phoenix, OR 97535

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**As a kindergarten and first grade teacher in Ashland, Oregon, I know how essential the distribution of fresh vegetables is to our families in this time. The Farm to Schools field trips are fun, educational and nourishing. Healthy food is what we need to keep our immune systems strong to survive this pandemic.**

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.  
WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

**JoEllen Meyeroff, Elementary School Teacher/ Ashland School District, Ashland, Oregon**

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:11:10 PM

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July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**This funding is very important because it teaches children where their food comes from and the importance of farmers and fosters a respect for the earth.**

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.  
WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

thank you for your service,

**Ann Zimmerman, Phoenix/Talent School District, Jackson County**

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 20th, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program!  
This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE  
WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Georgia Julius

Rogue Valley Food System Network & Gold Tooth Garlic Farm

July 21, 2020

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Please protect Farm to School funding! It is vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to our state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

As a retired teacher and a supporter of Our Family Farms, I was so happy with your win-win support of our local farms and our community's children. I can't tell you how important our family farms and our children are. To be able to give children in need good quality, sustainably raised fresh food AND at the same time support our local family farms is a tremendous achievement. If you have ever seen the commodity food provided by the US government, you must realize that it is not nearly as nutritious as the food supplied by Oregon's Farm to School Program.

**The FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. **WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

I understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB2579. You are investing in the economic future and well-being of our children and our communities.

Sincerely,

Jenet Johnsen  
Retired Medford School District teacher.  
Resident of Jackson County, Ashland, OR

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This is the heart of our community and way of life we want to teach our children. Rebecca and her team do a remarkable job!

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed.

**JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.  
**PLEASE!!!!**

Jim and Rachel Andras / Andras Outfitters  
Parent and Volunteer Phoenix/Talent School District  
Talent, Oregon

Email: [andrasoutfitters@me.com](mailto:andrasoutfitters@me.com) / [www.andrasoutfitters.com](http://www.andrasoutfitters.com)  
800 488 5794 / Jim 530 722 7992 Rachel 530.227.4837

Rachel Andras: Professional Health and Wellness Coach  
[stepstohealthcoachrachel@gmail.com](mailto:stepstohealthcoachrachel@gmail.com)

July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

In Ashland this program has, for several years, provided outdoor education for elementary school children, teaching them important skills of science, gardening, cooking, appreciation for the land, nutrition, and camaradie. I saw firsthand, as a volunteer, what an important place this program holds in our schools and community.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. **WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

*Marcia Hunter, retired middle school teacher*

**Subject:** Protection of Farm to School funding, Please!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:36:53 PM

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Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Committee:

We know that budget cuts are necessary but **PLEASE DO NOT CUT FUNDS OF THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM!** It is more crucial than ever, during the COVID-19 pandemic that we provide outdoor education for our children. It is safe and so important, allowing children to learn in a social distancing environment, outside. No extra custodial help, sanitization procedures, or PPE is needed — it is cost effective and contributes to our community, our local farmers' livelihoods and our economic stability. This is a way to allow children to return to school in the fall without endangering them or school staff.

It makes so much sense to protect the **FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM!**

**PLEASE KEEP THE FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAMS GOING, AS MANDATED BY HB 2579.**

Faculty, SOU

Sincerely, Lynn Ransford, M.A. Early Childhood Education, Retired Adjunct

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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**Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:**

**I am a parent in the Ashland School, District, my daughter attends Ashland High School. Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!**

**Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.**

**The farm to school program is the only fresh food they get in an otherwise unhealthy offering at the cafeteria and many other families rely on it to get fresh produce into their kids menu.**

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

**This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.**

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

**We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.**

**Sincerely,  
Cat Gould  
97520**



July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

What could be more basic than providing healthy food for our kids. And at the same time supporting our local farmers, and in turn the local economy. Rogue Valley Farm to School is an essential community resource.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Anna Cassilly, Talent/Phoenix School District/Talent, OR

**Subject:** Save Farm to School Funding for Oregon Students!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:38:47 PM

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July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**As a Registered Dietitian I am a big supporter of Oregon's Farm to School programs. Farm to School funding has been essential to supporting students in building positive lifelong habits and increasing their access and consumption of high quality, seasonal and locally grown produce that they are often not exposed to in their home lives. This quality programming needs to continue! Please decide to support Farm to School programs and help the next generation of Oregonians to develop healthy eating habits while also supporting Oregon farmers and local economy.**

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 21st, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**During this Covid-19 pandemic, I have walked by our local elementary school and seen so many families getting meals. One family was so excited for the fresh produce in their meal. It is important to keep that connection. It is also important due to less handling of the produce and a more direct pass through to the consumer.**

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

Sheri Cellini  
[sscellini@hotmail.com](mailto:sscellini@hotmail.com)  
Ashland, OR  
Jackson County / Ashland School district

July 20, 2020

Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

As a parent of a 12<sup>th</sup> grade son, I certainly know firsthand how much children eat and need quality food and a good diet to thrive. I also know there are, tragically, far too many children who go hungry and do not get enough food. This is one organization who has been stepping in to fill the void, not only feeding children but teaching them, helping the local farmers, and connecting residents of our communities.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall. **WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,  
Robin Gotfrid  
Owner, Rogue Web Works LLC  
Parent of 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Ashland High School student, Jackson County School District  
346 Iowa Street  
Ashland, OR 97520

**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:45:14 PM

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**This program has been extremely successful in our district for years and we need to build upon it, not erase it!**

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.  
**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

**David and Gina Heckley  
135 Morninglight Drive  
Ashland, OR 97520  
Ashland School District**

-----  
Gina Heckley, CSBA, Resource & Design Consultant  
Idea House Consulting [www.idealhouse.net](http://www.idealhouse.net)  
Home Construction-Interior Design-Sustainable Building  
541.890.0717 cell  
ginaheckley@yahoo.com

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**(Tell them why maintaining this funding is important to your community)**

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Jaclyn McQuiston  
Kindergarten Teacher at Central Point Elementary  
Sent from my iPhone

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 21th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN AND FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**As a Rogue Valley family, we have greatly benefited from the access to fresh, local, and healthy produce. Our family has suffered greatly from the Covid-19 quarantine and pandemic, including financially, and the box of weekly produce has genuinely taken a huge amount of pressure off our family for groceries and healthy eating! Just yesterday, I was considering this program, thanking God for the provision, and wondering how long the financing would be allocated for such an incredible program. Food scarcity is not a joke, but the traditional methodologies for addressing it is beyond laughable. The Farm to School Grant Program is brilliant, localized, and cyclical. Fostering financial growth for local farmers, while sustaining local families, only serves to improve all parties involved!**

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.  
WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

**Mandy Capehart**  
**Medford 549c School District**  
**Medford, Oregon**

**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 9:28:09 PM

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,  
Phylcia Chandler  
Mother and Caring Community Member

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

This program is one of the few good things I have seen during this time in terms of community action, caring and sustainability. Where every other discussion serves to divide and create anxiety. This provides nourishment for children. This serves the local economy. This is real and important work that deserves our steadfast support.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Thank you,  
Kendra Ortner  
Ashland, Oregon

Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Arianna Van Heusen

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Farm to School  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2020 12:07:07 PM

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Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Your Name

July 22th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program. This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Here in Southern Oregon we have high rates of poverty and children who are homeless. Many depend on these programs for fresh produce and quality food.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Crystal Arnold, Talent/Phoneix school district parent, Talent, Oregon 97540

**From:**

**To:**

**Subject:** Fwd: Save Farm to School Funding for Oregon Students!

**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:25:17 AM

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July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**As a Registered Dietitian I am a big supporter of Oregon's Farm to School programs. Farm to School funding has been essential to supporting students in building positive lifelong habits and increasing their access and consumption of high quality, seasonal and locally grown produce that they are often not exposed to in their home lives. This quality programming needs to continue! Please decide to support Farm to School programs and help the next generation of Oregonians to develop healthy eating habits while also supporting Oregon farmers and local economy.**

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Maggie Gartman, MS RDN

"Achieving health through the power of food"

Blue Dragonfly Nutrition & Wellness

Central Point, OR 97502

Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 22nd, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

My children have attended Walker Elementary school, where produce from Rogue Valley farms has helped them feel their connection to local lands, agriculture, as well as providing nutritious and yummy additions to the school menu. Additionally, the outdoor classrooms represented by local farms is a huge asset to kids' education and may be **INVALUABLE** this school year in terms of providing a safe and educational outdoor alternative to the school classroom.

Sincerely,

Victor Chang

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Please don't cut funding to schools!  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:52:43 AM

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Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Jeff McAllister

**From:**  
**Subject:** Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:42:53 PM

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 22th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**SOUTHERN OREGON NEEDS THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **PLEASE KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Emily Baehr

--

**Emily Baehr**  
Community Engagement Coordinator, Maslow Project





PO BOX 999

Medford, OR 97501

Phone: (541) 608-6868

Cell/Text: (541) 414-9661

Fax: (541) 608-6869

<http://www.maslowproject.com/>

***Maslow Project's mission is to empower homeless youth to thrive independently through supports that stabilize and engage in all aspects of life.***

\*Confidentiality Notice: The information contained in this email may be confidential and legally privileged. It is intended only for use of the individual named. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that the disclosure, copying, distribution, or taking of any action in regards to the contents of this email except its direct delivery to the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy and delete.\*

July 21st, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

My middle school environmental education class utilized Rogue Valley Farm to School last year. My students were hatching chickens and had many questions about how to care for the soon to hatch chicks. Rebecca Slosberg, took the time to have us do a field trip to see her set up for how to care for the chicks.

Rebecca shared with us invaluable tips regarding the care of the creatures that I wouldn't have been able to just look up. Later after talking more with my class we sent Rebecca a list of further questions we had and she took the time to answer all of our questions.

This led to my students doing a great job at caring for the chicks right after they hatched. I am certain without this guidance my students would not have been as well prepared for this project.

I look forward to working with Rogue Valley Farm to School in the future. I hope you can assist us by keeping this valuable resource available for all educators in the Rogue Valley.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Jeremiah Church  
369 Granite St  
Ashland, OR 97520  
541-838-0003

Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd

ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM  
OUR FARMERS.

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program!  
This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and  
children's well-being.

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE  
WHERE IT IS SAFE!

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funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social  
distancing as students return to school in the fall.

WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant  
Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Church

Ashland, OR

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:11:21 AM

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 22nd, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

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**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Venessa Meaney, nutrition educator in Southern Oregon

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:06:34 PM

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

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**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,  
Tia Wilhelm

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:58:21 PM

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July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**I personally have witnessed the benefits of the farm to school program for children and their families in their district, and know that this is an important resource for food security, access to and knowledge about local, healthy food for our families who are struggling during this time.**

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.**

**Vivian Tauer, graduate of the Phoenix-Talent School District**

Vivian Tauer  
She/her/hers

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 4:02:16 PM

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July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**I'm an early elementary teacher in a high poverty Title One school. 60% of our students receive free and reduced lunch. I cannot stress enough how important the Farm to School program is to our students and our curriculum. For many of our students this the only opportunity they have ever had to see where food comes from. The opportunity to harvest and prepare a healthy meal is a revelation to them. Losing Farm to School would be a huge blow to our students and community.**

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.  
**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB**

Erin Mahanay  
Talent Elementary School, Talent, **OR**

**From:**  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 6:19:01 PM

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 22nd, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

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**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

The Goodson Family

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:09:46 PM

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

I volunteered for my children's school John Muir and at Eagle Mill farm in the beginning of this program being created. It was so much work for everyone involved. A true labor of love. Many, many students from the whole valley participated and received foods from the Farm to school program.

The schools worked together with Farm to school to welcome fresh foods back into the cafeteria. The students learned everything about the process, from the seed up. They have built some amazing outdoor spaces for the kids to learn and actually contribute.

It is so well organized it would be a tragedy not to continue. I would think it could embellish the situation of covid 19 and kids at school, this whole program could even be more utilized.

I remember Senator Wyden came to visit once when I was there. I remember he was quite impressed.

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Maribeth Beaudoin

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2020 1:58:10 PM

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ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Eggleston

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:39:57 AM

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July 22nd, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

Our local Ashland families are struggling to put food on the table during this pandemic.

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.  
**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Sincerely, Suzanne Zapf, Jackson County, Ashland

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Written testimony for Public Hearing on July 23rd ATTN: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:57:45 AM

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July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being. I have personally seen the amazing impact the Farm to School Programs have had on our youth. Hands-on authentic learning has empowered our kids to be proactive & make healthier food choices. The quality of the curriculum & knowledge of their workers who teach the kids is top notch. We have a very high percent of families that qualify for free/ reduced food meals, the Farm to School program have supported & sustained many our families with the food boxes. Having kids outside working & learning is a needed, crucial element for education admit the COVID crisis.

I have personally seen the amazing impact the Farm to School Programs have had on our youth. Please keep it supported & growing!

**THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!**

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.  
**WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

We understand that budget cuts are needed. **JUST KEEP** the Farm to School Grant Programs **GOING** as mandated by HB 2579.

Kim Elmer 21 year teacher for Jackson County Sch District6, Central Point.

This is urgent and immediate action is needed as **ALL FUNDING WILL BE CUT!** Please share your email/petition with anyone they know that cares about farm to school programs on their social media profile

July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

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Please do all you can to protect funding for Oregon's Farm to School Grant Program! This funding is critical to the state's economic stability, our farmers' livelihoods, and children's well-being.

**I am a small farmer who has been selling leafy greens to various Rogue Valley School Districts since 2018. This program has been helpful through increased income for our farm and greater introductions of dark leafy greens to school children. Parents will seek out my products at the Farmers Markets, since we sell the only greens their children will eat. Through increased food exposure and table tastings, this program is essential for the nutritional future of children and economic support of the farming community. The "value" of this funding spreads far beyond the initial recipient. Please save this critical funding source for children, schools and small farms.**

THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL LET OUR CHILDREN LEARN OUTSIDE WHERE IT IS SAFE!

This funding is more important than ever in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds are critical for economic development, and school gardens are a key to social distancing as students return to school in the fall.

Healthy children will recover from infections far faster than nutritionally deprived peers. With the probable extension of the economic downturn, low income families are going to face further strain on budgets, and schools are historically critical nutritional sources. Please keep the kitchens stocked with healthy food options.

WE NEED THIS PROGRAM NOW MORE THAN EVER!

We understand that budget cuts are needed. JUST KEEP the Farm to School Grant Programs GOING as mandated by HB 2579.

**Christi and Kyle Reilly, TerraSol Organics, LLC, Williams Oregon**

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:00:26 PM

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July 20th, 2020

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

Please protect Farm to School funding! It's vital to our community!

**YOU ARE TAKING FOOD AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN, FUNDING  
AWAY FROM OUR FARMERS.**

We love receiving services at Kids Unlimited of Medford!!