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Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lucy De Leon and I am the owner of Salsas Locas in Gresham, Multnomah County. We produce tamales, individually packed meals, and other processed products for schools and grocery stores.

We began working with the farm to school program in December 2018 and ever since then we have been heavily involved in making food for many different school districts. I have sold to 19 school districts including Portland Public Schools, Umatilla and Woodburn and many more. The growth of our business now relies on the profit that comes from these school orders. We love being a part of this program and being able to see our food on children's plates. This program has been a great experience for our business and has had a very positive outcome.

In the past our efforts to sell to different districts has been supported by the Farm to School Grant Program which has been a huge blessing. It has been great to see the positive impact that the Grant Program has had on so many businesses. Our business has benefitted greatly from these funds and we have been able to receive many more school orders because of them. The Farm to School Grant Program has motivated so many school districts to buy more local meals.

The Farm to School cuts affected our business greatly. We have had many school districts, both large and small, who have not ordered meals from us due to their lack of funds. Specifically, we had a huge loss by not being able to sell to the Beaverton School District. We designed a product specifically to meet the needs of the Beaverton School District and due to their reduction in grant funds they were not able to follow through with the order. While we are still producing food for some grocery stores, the school market are a big part of what we do. We rely on this funding to continue the growth of our company.

Maintaining this ODE Farm to School Grant funding in the future is very important for the success of our business and our community. This funding allows us to sell to many different school districts and helps ensure that our company continues to succeed.

Our company is made up of single mothers who need their paychecks to survive and provide for their children. The lack of orders caused by the reduced grant money has caused many of their hours to be cut.

Thank you for your service. I'm happy to answer any questions you might have about my testimony.

Lucy De Leon

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