

TRANQUIL FARMS
20770 Tranquility Lane
Oregon City OR 97045



Chair Clem and Members of the Committee,
I am writing on behalf of myself and Tranquil Farms. I am a beginning farmer in Clackamas County. I achieved my organic certification last year.

I'm writing to ask you to support HB 2579, to expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden programs. Farm to School Programs support students, farmers and communities. Specifically I know it makes a difference in many ways:

- 1) The School Gardens program is teaching children where their food comes from, to respect their food and the farmer, and is also encouraging them to consider agriculture as a career path, which the world needs, and especially Oregon needs in order to continue to feed all of us.
- 2) I have participated in the School Gardens program as a farmer providing resource/growing information, meeting kids as the 'farmer' and providing our potatoes as seed potato for their gardens. Children need to experience the wonder of watching a seed grow!
- 3) I have sold some of our crop to the Farm to School Program, and these sales support my farm and my family, as well as our local community. Farmers can't make it unless they have the support of their community to place a high value on the products that are fresh, wholesome and full of nutrients.
- 4) I grow organic produce and herbs, and I believe that with all of the pesticides and chemicals in our food these days, it's important especially for children to decrease their exposure to these, so that their brains and bodies can grow in a healthy way.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.
Joann Reckling
Tranquil Farms
Oregon City