

February 25, 2019

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee,

My name is Adam Poole and I am writing on behalf of Poole Family Farms, Inc. We are a small, family owned and operated orchard located in the beautiful Hood River Valley.

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.

As a producer, we try to direct market our apples and cherries rather than send them to the packing house. We like knowing who gets our fruit and it brings us joy knowing that our fruit is being consumed by students! Having a bigger buyer like the school district is so beneficial for small farmers like us.

My wife and I have 5 children in the local school district where we supply and it is fun hearing them tell their friends at lunch that we supplied the school apples. It's important to have programs like this which helps fund school districts to purchase fruit from local farmers like us because it helps kids know what they are eating and where it comes from.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Adam Poole
Hood River, Oregon