



Service Employees International Union, Local 503, OPEU

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use - Chair Rep Brian Clem; Vice Chair Rep McLain and Vice Chair Rep Post and Committee members Rep Boshart Davis; Rep Helm; Rep Brock Smith and Rep Williams

From: SEIU Local 503 – Len Norwitz, Senior Political Organizer

Re: HB 2579

Date: February 27, 2019

Find this as testimony in support of **HB 2579** – which expands types of entities that may receive grant from Farm-to-School Grant Program to purchase food produced or processed in state

SEIU 503 represents a little more than 500 workers at Portland Public School. About 300 are custodians and the other 200 work in the Nutrition Services departments. Our members are on site with students daily - as we maintain and provide key student services and support their success. And we know the importance of having nourished and healthy students as they make their way through their days on campus.

We strongly support the Child Nutrition Programs that are currently provided at our schools. Child Nutrition Programs ensure that students – regardless of income - are well nourished and ready to learn. We understand that there are 90 cafeterias at PPS that serve 31,000 student – almost a third of these students qualify for free or reduced lunches.

It is our understanding that House Bill 2579 would help school districts use resources to contract with local farms supporting Oregon businesses and providing fresh and healthy meals. We encourage the committee to support HB 2579. Thank you.

Salem Headquarters	Bend	Portland	Corvallis	Medford	Eugene	Pendleton
1730 Commercial St. SE PO Box 12159 Salem, OR 97309-0159 503-581-1505 800-452-2146 (Fax) 503-581-1664	925 SE Second St. Suite C Bend, OR 97702-1756 541-385-8471 800-832-0593 (Fax) 541-388-9078	6401 SE Foster Road Portland, OR 97206-4659 503-408-4090 800-527-9374 (Fax) 503-408-4099	Physical Site/Do Not Mail 606 SW 15th St. Rm. 109 Corvallis, OR 97331-4606 541-752-0183 (Fax) 541-752-0241	1257 N Riverside #7 Medford, OR 97501 541-779-4324 800-452-7965 (Fax) 541-779-4325	488 E 11th Ave. Suite 200 Eugene, OR 97401 541-342-1055 800-521-3446 (Fax) 541-342-2932	200 SE Hailey Ave. Suite 302 Pendleton, OR 97801-3069 541-276-4983 800-452-8146 (Fax) 541-276-4984