

February 26, 2019

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301



RE: HB 2579

Dear Chair Clem and members of the Committee,

My name is Jerome Rosa, I am the Executive Director for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. We represent nearly 2000 Oregon ranchers and families. We aim to improve the beef industry while promoting environmentally sound and socially conscious economic practices. Oregon has over 13,000 cattle producers, using 57% of state agricultural lands.

I'm writing on behalf of myself and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association in support of HB 2579 and the amendments to expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden programs. Farm to School Programs support students, farmers and communities.

This program connects ranchers with youth who will one day become the leaders of this state. It's imperative for Oregon youth to learn applicable knowledge about agriculture, livestock, gardening, food and nutrition at an early age and this program does just that.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association is a proud participant in the Farm to School Programs and we are always willing to provide education to youth about the environmental stewardship of ranchers and the animal husbandry we provide to our livestock. We look forward to continued participation in these programs.

On behalf of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, I'm asking you to support funding for HB 2579 and the amendments to expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden program.

Sincerely,

Jerome Rosa
Oregon Cattlemen's Association