From: Christy Freeman
To: JWMED Exhibits

**Subject:** Written testimony for Farm to School Bill, HB 2579

**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2019 5:42:22 AM

I am a Nutritional specialist at Mae Richardson School Central Point Oregon I am writing on behalf of myself and The School district.

I'm writing to ask you to support HB 2579 and the -4 Amendments, to expand funding for Oregon's farm to school and school garden programs. HB 2579 expands funding for schools to buy Oregon foods and for farm- and garden-based education. As a school cook it has been amazing watching our kids grow and as that time passes introducing them to new foods is always a joy. I have watched kids try and love asparagus for the 1<sup>st</sup> time made homemade guacamole for them and had them try it on their fresh made taco salads and have been thrilled to have them come back for more guacamole next taco salad day simply because they realized how yummy it was. None of that is possible without this farm to school bill. So thank you so much for your consideration it makes such a big difference in a child's life.

Farm to school programs support students, farmers and communities. I have seen these programs make a difference

Please do all you can to advance and fully fund HB 2579.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service. Sincerely,

Christy J Freeman School district 6 Central Point Or.