



Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

May 31, 2019

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am a Nutrition Services staff member with the Oregon Trail School District. I am writing to ask you to support HB 2579 and the four 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.

Farm to school programs support students, farmers and communities. I have seen these programs make a difference as we have utilized it the past two years here. It has allowed us to bring local products grown and processed here in Oregon directly to our students and families we serve. It has allowed us to expand our usage of local produce by including avenues to procure food processing equipment which allows us to bring products that may not have been possible to use because of our limitations with equipment to process them further to utilize in our school cafeterias.

For us here, this program has also been a vehicle to reach out to local farmers and create relationships to obtain items from them and support their efforts. I have worked with local vendors across the state in bringing their foods to the families I serve.

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

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Russel Knott

Oregon Trail School District