

April 16, 2021

Tri-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward and Rayfield and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Denise Rowcroft and I am testifying on behalf of \$15M for Farm to School, to ask you to restore funding for the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program.

Farm to School Grants provide funding for schools to purchase healthy, local foods and provide farm and garden based education. These grants are leveraging and keeping millions of federal dollars in Oregon, supporting local farmers and connecting kids to Oregon agriculture.

This program has directly benefited Central Oregon students by providing funding for connecting kids to information and hands-on activities about food, nutrition and Oregon grown crops. Funding also supported school gardens, grab and go activity kits, virtual farm field trips, and getting local food into school meals as part of National Farm to School Month events. Funding benefited students, teachers, garden and food educators, local farmers and school districts.

Please do all you can to restore funding for the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program to the levels of the last biennium, which was \$15 million. Thanks for the opportunity to testify.



Denise Rowcroft
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