

Submitter: Katie Swanson

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural  
Resources

Measure: HB5002

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 14, 2023

Co-Chairs Senator Dembrow and Representative Pham and members of the  
Committee

I am writing on behalf of Sweet Union Farm in support of the request to include the Farm to School Equipment and Infrastructure Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's budget. This Grant program provides funding for food producers to access necessary equipment to meet the demands of the school marketplace.

I grow mixed vegetables in Klamath County. My farm received grant funding in 2022 to build a walk-in cooler. This allowed Sweet Union to greatly increase our sales to Klamath County School District this year and for future years. This year we are growing the most we ever have specifically for the schools and it wouldn't have been possible without the essential infrastructure funded through this grant.

I support this grant program because I know from experience that Farm to School programs are good for our community and grant programs like these help small-scale, beginning farmers like me overcome significant barriers to scaling up and meeting the school requirements.

I ask that you support including this grant program in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's budget at \$500,000 as previously requested in ODA's Agency Request Budget. Thank you for your time.

Katie Swanson  
Sweet Union Farm  
Klamath Falls, OR