

Submitter: Lance McMurphy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5014

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain and members of the Committee

I am writing on behalf of Redmond School District in support of the Farm to School Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget. This Grant program provides critical funding for schools and early childhood education programs to purchase Oregon foods, hands-on farm and garden education programs, equipment and infrastructure for food producers and technical assistance for the farm to school community. Sustaining the current level of \$10.2 million dollars will support dependable business and community relationships between schools and food producers and maintain consistent educational programs that connect students to agriculture and nutrition.

We're able to use our award each biennium and often request additional unused funding in support of our District's vision: Thriving students, Engaged Community, & Ready Graduates.

As child nutrition professional, I support this grant program because it builds skills for wellness and health in kids and communities, builds a strong local food system and supports our local economy, and supports schools as hubs for communities especially during times of crisis such as wildfires and pandemic.

I ask that you support including this grant program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at the current level of \$10.2 million so this program can continue to support healthy kids, schools and communities. Thank you for your time.

Lance McMurphy
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