

Submitter: McKenzie McCann

On Behalf Of: Sauvie Island Center

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5014

I'm the Education Manager for an environmental educational non-profit that relies on Oregon Farm-to-School funding. Our primary program is delivering farm field trips to elementary school students. We teach students the science behind how their food grows which supports ecological awareness and excitement around eating their veggies and playing in the dirt. Farm-to-School is one of our primary grant funders. Thanks to Farm-to-School, we are able to provide 90% of our field trips on scholarship to low-income schools. These funds go directly toward paying the field trip and transportation fees. 75% of our scholarship schools say our field trips would be inaccessible without these funds.

I urge you to fully fund Oregon's Farm-to-School program so organizations like mine, and all our friends, can continue providing quality farm-based programs to all students in Oregon, not just the ones with the economic privilege to afford it. Eating is an agricultural act and every child growing up in a climate-collapsing world deserves to learn how their food is produced, where it comes from, to find the pleasures of eating minimally processed foods , and the environmental impacts of our food systems.

Thank you.