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March 16, 2023

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

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

I am writing on behalf of Cabral Livestock, 29 Branded Beef and as parents of school-aged children, 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 relationships between schools and food producers and maintain consistent educational programs that connect students to agriculture and nutrition

We have recently started our own Oregon grown, raised and processed beef company. A major part of our decision to pursue this endeavor was to positively contribute to the school system and providing the students of our State with healthy, Oregon beef that we can show exactly where it came from, how it was raised, what it consumed, and how it was processed. Daily nutrition is such a crucial part of our children's success, there is no reason we should give them anything but the best.

We support this grant program for multiple reasons. As parents, we want what is best for our children as I'm sure you are aware. We work to the best of our abilities to provide the best we can for our children while at home, and we expect the same while they are at school. Our community has a fair number of low-income families, and it is a fact that for some of those children, the meals they receive while at school are the only ones they receive for the day. This shouldn't be something that is "skimped" on. These children are the future of our state, we need to ensure they are cared for, receiving the highest education possible and the best nutrition available.

From the business side of things, by funding the Farm to School Grant Program it builds and improves the local food system while supporting our Oregon economy. Using our agriculture operation as an example of how much is contributed to the economy for one year's worth of cattle/beef and wheat, we purchase all of our cattle feed from fellow Oregon producers and local



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businesses. We hire local residents to help on our operation with all farming and ranching tasks, including students from the area, giving them knowledge about agriculture and production. All of our mechanical work is done by local businesses, and our products are all sold through Oregon companies. I would estimate that the local agriculture producers contribute multiple billions to Oregon's economy annually.

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.

*JC & Whitney Nogle Cabral*  
Grass Valley, OR