

Alder Street Consulting

Portland, Oregon | AlderStreetConsulting@gmail.com | 503-750-3659

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

March 19, 2023

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

I am writing on behalf of Alder Street Consulting 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.

Alder Street Consulting provides business technical assistance to small and moderate sized Oregon agricultural producers. Many of these independent producers struggle to be successful in a food system that is heavily biased towards large commodity growers. The Farm to School Grant Program provides an exciting sales channel for my clients and others like them, increasing the viability of their businesses while enhancing the local food system and bolstering the local economy.

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.

Richard Schwartz
Principal Consultant
Alder Street Consulting
Portland, OR