

Submitter: Domenika Radonich

On Behalf Of: Good Rain Farm

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5014

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

March 21st 2023

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

I am writing on behalf of Good Rain Farm 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 local agriculture and nutrition.

Our farm grows over 125 varieties of vegetables, fruits, and edible flowers that feature Native First Foods of this region, and of Turtle Island more broadly. We serve local schools, food banks and institutions with the belief that through connection to a place we can rebuild a culture of respect, honor, gratitude and reciprocity.

As producers we support this grant program because it is so vital to our farm's relationships with school districts such as PPS, Centennial, St. Helens, Eugene, La Grande, and early care education centers such as Metro Family Service, League of Urban Latin American Citizens, and the Native American Youth and Family Center, to name a few. We expect to increase our capacity to these youth nutrition services by 200% in 2023 thanks to this grant program.

Farm to School grant funding supports healthy, resilient communities that are better equipped to manage the uncertainties of climate change, unstable markets, as well as pandemics. The Portland Greater Metro area is home to a unique breadth and depth of Native identities and Indigenous kids in Oregon deserve to be well fed with culturally appropriate foods! We, alongside many Oregon Farmers, are here to meet the needs kids face in school and at the dinner table.

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.

Domenika Radonich  
Good Rain Farm  
Portland, OR