

Submitter: Michelle Glover, La Grande School District

On Behalf Of: Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB 5014

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

March 21, 2023

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

I am writing on behalf of La Grande 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 to purchase Oregon foods for schools and early childcare education centers; funds hands-on farm and garden educational programs; supports equipment and infrastructure for food producers; and funds technical assistance and training for the farm to school community. Sustaining the current level of \$10.2 million dollars will support dependable partnerships between schools and food producers and maintain consistent educational programs that connect students to agriculture and nutrition.

I support this grant program because of the benefits that we have experienced in our nutrition services program by being able to provide our students with quality product produced from the area that they reside in. We have established great relationships with our local producers and the program has allowed our students to connect by having the opportunity to learn about the farming and ranching that is an economic driver in our rural, Eastern Oregon community.

I ask that you continue to support 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.

Michelle Glover, SFO
Business Director
La Grande School District