



TESTIMONY

Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Subcommittee On Education

June 21, 2017

Oregon Farm Bureau Supports HB 2038A and the -11 Amendment

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) is the state's largest grassroots agriculture association, representing 7,000 farming and ranching families in Oregon. OFB's mission is to promote the educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement of its members. Oregon's Farm-to-School program is of interest to OFB members because they connect agriculture with students across the state.

Oregon is a leader in the Farm-to-School movement. These programs provide positive educational and health outcomes to Oregon students. In addition, much of the funding provides healthy, local food to schools. OFB has long promoted the use of domestic and locally produced farm products in Oregon's schools and supports efforts to maintain this program.

Unfortunately, after historic funding in the 2015-2017 biennium, Oregon's Farm-to-School program faces possible cuts this biennium. OFB urges the Subcommittee to move this bill forward with the -11 amendment to connect students to Oregon agriculture and local food and leverage federal dollars.

OFB respectfully asks for your support of HB 2038A and the -11 amendment to help preserve Oregon's Farm-to-School and School Garden programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.