



TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND

FROM: KASANDRA GRIFFIN
UPSTREAM PUBLIC HEALTH

DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2017

RE: IN SUPPORT OF HB 2038-2

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee, my name is Kasandra Griffin.

I am here to join my colleagues in asking for your enthusiastic support of HB 2038-2.

I work on food and school health at Upstream Public Health. We have been promoting farm to school and school garden programs since 2006. I am also here on behalf of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network, which represents over 1,000 Oregonians who work in and care about school food and garden programs.

My colleague Michelle Markesteyn Ratcliffe of Truitt Family Foods had to stay home with a sick kid today, which is unfortunate because we were expecting to hear from *both* of them. In her absence, I want to highlight one point that she wanted to make, which is that it takes substantial investments of time and other resources for producers to develop the relationships, and sometimes the products, to sell to schools.

Truitt Family Foods and others have been working with schools because they have seen this program GROW consistently since 2007. They believe that selling to schools is both a good thing to do, and also an economically viable thing to do. However, if the funding for this program is suddenly eliminated, schools will not be able to buy as much local product, and it will actually *hurt* the businesses that have invested in developing these business relationships. I know that Mr. Kiyokowa talked about investing in storage facilities and Ms. Svensson talked about packaging smaller portions; those changes to their businesses took effort, and I hope it won't turn out to have been wasted!

Finally, if we have time for it, I would love to show a two-minute video about one school garden program in action. This is Schoolyard Farms, in Representative Power's district, which is one of the 24 organizations currently getting the "education" grant funding under this program, and an opportunity to get a sense of the "education" programs in action. <https://vimeo.com/196331394>

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today, and I am happy to try to field any questions you might have about how this program works or why we like it so much.