

February 18, 2019

Representative Brian Clem  
Oregon State House  
Salem, OR

Dear Chair Clem and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use,

My name is Pete Gonzalves and I am writing on behalf of Valley View Orchard near Ashland, Oregon, where I serve as Biologist. I ask that you please support HB 2579, to expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden programs.

This program is important to all of us at our small certified organic orchard because it facilitates access to diverse varieties of local, organically grown fruit and vegetables for area schools and students. With the Farm To School Program, we are able to provide kid-size, very fresh fruit to schools with reduced handling and transportation costs compared to serving regional markets. Encouraging garden activities and student visits out to the farm may be the best part!

Thank you for your consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,

Pete Gonzalves  
Valley View Orchard  
Ashland, OR