



**Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™**

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of myself and the Oregon School Nutrition Association.

I am writing to ask you to support HB 2579, to expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden programs. Farm to School Programs support students, farmers and communities. As a School Nutrition Director, I have seen how the positive impact of this grant on my staff, our students, local farmers, and producers across the state.

Specifically in my district, the grant money has allowed us the opportunity to be more creative with the menu items and ingredients we select. We get to purchase from local farms and companies producing Oregon grown and made food items. This grant has given us the opportunity to purchase surplus produce from our local farmers that we typically would not be able to afford, which is a win win for the farmer and us.

As a board member and active member of the Oregon School Nutrition Association, I have been able to see the amazing impact this grant has had on districts across the state, Directors are always excited to discuss the exciting recipes they were able to try and serve because of the farm to school grant funding. Our association hosts an annual conference for school nutrition professionals. During our conference, we host a Food & Equipment show. The success of farm to school has been so great that we have been able to add an Oregon Showcase to the show. We are able to feature 16-24 companies/farmers who produce and process Oregon grown items and are able to sell to the schools. This has been a major success and part of that success is attributed to the Farm to School grant money we have been fortunate enough to receive.

Over my past four years as a board member with OSNA I have had the opportunity to travel quite a bit and meet school nutrition professionals from all over. One of the best parts has been the opportunity to brag about the Farm to School Grant our state government has awarded us.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Anne Leavens, OSNA Past President  
Central Point