



Foods That Make A Difference®

**TO:** House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use

**FROM:** Jordan Truitt  
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**RE:** Written testimony in support of HB 2579

Dear Chair Clem and members of the committee,

My name is Jordan Truitt, fourth generation food processor and plant manager at Truitt Family Foods. We are here in strong support for full funding of HB 2579.

The work of the Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Education, the Legislature and community partners have done in developing the K-12 markets through the farm to school program has transformed school lunch in Oregon, and as a result nationally.

In fact the strides in the K-12 farm to school market and simultaneous changes in the distribution system have fueled the way we think about all of our markets, and how we position ourselves within them. At Truitt Family Foods we have developed an innovative line of all natural, shelf-stable hummus and white bean puree dippers that are ideal for the retail and airline market, and most significantly for the K-12 school food market.

The strength of the K-12 market at home and across the country has given us the signal we needed to create the new line of healthy K-12 market ready hummus and bean dips. This is a testament to the significance of a state legislative body that is supportive of farm to school, alongside the local market development activities of the state agency and partners in the public and private sectors.

For the foreseeable future, our new line of products will be a very important part of our business, and stabilizing employment for nearly 100 people at our facility. This is made tenuous by episodic grant dollars flowing in and out of school districts. Our situation is not unique. Ingredient supply chains, production practices, and distribution networks require a reliable and on-going quantity of sales. Fully funding HB 2038-A is a meaningful step in the right direction.

On a personal note, I am dad to three public school bound kids. It is important to me that my kids, and all kids, have access to the great food produced and processed right here in Oregon, and that they are able to learn about food and agriculture for their health and possible careers in the industry.

I strongly urge you to fully fund HB 2579 and ensure farm to school and school gardens in Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am happy to address any questions you may have.

TRUITT FAMILY FOODS

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