



House Committee on Agriculture & Land Use
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Feb 27, 2019

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee,

I am the Program Director at Farmers Market Fund, an organization dedicated to fresh fruits and vegetables for all Oregonians. I am writing on behalf of myself and Farmers Market Fund to express our strong support for HB 2579 and the -2 Amendments, to expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden programs. Farm to School programs support students, farmers and communities.

Farm to school programs help bring healthy Oregon-grown foods to children in schools, and are the perfect complement to the work we do at Farmers Market Fund. Our main program, Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, is a SNAP incentive program. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, shoppers receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

While Double Up Food Bucks helps to bring healthy Oregon foods to children and families for consumption at home, Farm to School programs help children enjoy nutritious, Oregon-grown produce while at schools. We need both--healthy, Oregon-grown foods in school meals and at home. Farm to School programs increase access to healthy local foods, support family farmers, and give Oregon's economy a boost. It really is a win-win-win!

Please support HB 2579, for the health of Oregon's children, families, farmers and communities.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Molly Notarianni
Portland, OR