



**TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 2579
SUBMITTED BY SARAH BEAUBIEN, SENIOR DIRECTOR, STEWARDSHIP,
ON BEHALF OF TILLAMOOK COUNTY CREAMERY ASSOCIATION
HOUSE AGRICULTURE & LAND USE COMMITTEE
February 28, 2019**

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee,

Tillamook Creamery supports HB 2579, which would expand funding for Oregon's Farm to School Program, providing grants for schools to purchase Oregon-grown and Oregon-processed foods, including dairy products, and for farm and garden-based educational activities.

The Farm to School Bill passed in 2017 (HB 2038) provided \$4.5 million in funding for the Program. HB 2579 requests an additional \$4 million for a total of \$8.5 million, which would provide much needed additional funding for grants for purchases of Oregon foods and support for producers interested in selling to schools.

Farm to school sales can provide a significant financial opportunity for Oregon's dairy farmers. During the 2017-2018 school year, Oregon schools purchased Oregon dairy products valued at \$7,665,258 (liquid milk \$6,975,781 and other dairy products \$689,477). Oregon schools used their ODE Farm to School Grant funds to purchase Oregon dairy products, including cheese, cottage yogurt, sour cream and milk, valued at \$79,435 (with \$15,899 of this spent on cheese). With additional funding they could be buying more Oregon dairy!

The Farm to School Education grants also provide a great opportunity for Oregon students to learn about Oregon dairy products. We would love to partner more closely with Oregon schools to provide educational opportunities.

Thank you, and please vote in favor of HB 2579.