



February 28, 2019

Chair Brian Clem and Members of the Committee,

My name is Renea Wood and as the Chair of the Klamath County Food Policy Council I am writing to request your support for **HB 2579** and the -2 Amendment to expand types of entities that may receive funds from Farm-to-School Grant Program.

**HB 2579** would have an impact on students in Klamath County. Farm to School programs have been successful in teaching our students about health and nutrition by learning where their food comes from. This program is a perfect complement to the work our community is already doing promoting healthy living through collaborative partnerships.

An important aspect of **HB 2579** is that it takes a broad look at the food system. In our community's work **connecting producers to schools** we have learned that producers need help understanding and meeting the regulations that guide ODE Child Nutrition Programs. This bill specifically lays out **training for persons who produce or process food in Oregon** on how to have food products approved for use by school entities. It also points out that these producers may have to modify current equipment and infrastructure to meet those requirements.

Klamath County has a passionate rancher that recently made huge efforts to **modify their current meat processing and packaging systems to meet the requirements** of the Klamath County School District Child Nutrition Program. They had to learn how to change their serving sizes and modify packaging in order **sell their locally grown beef to our schools**. This process was time consuming and costly. It was this rancher's passion and dedication to our local food system, along with a patient school district and lots of technical assistance from ODE CNP that helped them be successful. It is our hope that other farmers and ranchers have the support they need to incorporate their Oregon grown products into our schools.

**HB 2579** is an extremely important way to increase access to Oregon grown foods to better the health of individual school children in our communities. It not only helps our students learn to eat healthy Oregon grown foods, but provides economic stimulation, helping Oregon producers meet Child Nutrition Program requirements.

Thank you for the taking the time to consider HB 2579 and the impact it will have health.

Renea Wood  
Klamath County  
Food Policy Council