



Organically Grown Company

Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

06/02/2019

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of myself and Organically Grown Company. Since 1978 Organically Grown Company has been distributing high quality organic produce throughout the Northwest while supporting and developing organic agriculture. Perpetual Purpose Trust owned, we operate from three facilities in Eugene and Portland, Oregon and Des Moines, Washington, employing over 280 staff members.

I'm writing to ask you to support HB 2579 and the most recent Amendments, to expand funding for Oregon's farm to school and school garden programs. HB 2579 expands funding for schools to buy Oregon foods and for farm- and garden-based education.

Organically Grown Company has participated in the USDA Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables, local farm to school programs, Harvest of the Month programs and direct supply for school districts that support students, farmers and Oregon communities. Keeping these funds available and in state, supporting Northwest agriculture and providing a more nutritional option for students are essentially the core pillars Organically Grown Company was founded under.

The feedback from the community, business leaders, students and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive as we strive to build a better food system through securing supply, education and advocacy. This past year Organically Grown Company became the first U.S. business to utilize trust law to structure its operational and funding model to support purpose-based entrepreneurship, ownership and succession. At the heart of this effort is our goal to promote health through organic agriculture.

The Sustainable Food and Agriculture Perpetual Purpose Trust, created by Organically Grown Company will ensure that the company delivers positive economic, social and environmental impact and maintains its independence into perpetuity, never to be sold. As an organization Organically Grown Company donates 2.5% of its' annual profits to schools and organizations that support organic agriculture, awareness and research.

To this end Organically Grown Company also stays actively engaged with organic policy at the State and Federal level. We welcome you to join us on our mission by fully funding HB 2579 and expanding Oregon's farm to school and school garden programs for the health and vitality of our communities and students statewide.

Please do all you can to advance and fully fund HB 2579.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Tom Morgan
Senior Account Field Representative

