

Tri-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward and Rayfield and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Lance McMurphy and I am testifying on behalf of Redmond School District 02J, to ask you to restore funding for the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program.

Farm to School Grants provide funding for schools to purchase healthy, local foods and provide farm and garden based education. These grants are leveraging and keeping millions of federal dollars in Oregon, supporting local farmers and connecting kids to Oregon agriculture.

This program has directly benefited our school district and our community by providing incentive to purchase Oregon-grown and processed food for our Child Nutrition Programs. The grant has benefitted over 7,000 students, a number of local farmers and food processing businesses by increasing awareness, jobs, and teaching kids about where their food comes from and how it's grown.

Please do all you can to restore funding for the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program to the levels of the last biennium, which was \$15 million. Thanks for the opportunity to testify.