

Dear co-chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward and Rayfield and all members of this committee:

On behalf of Zenger Farm, I ask you to restore full funding for the vitally important Oregon Farm to School Grant Program.

By providing funding for schools to purchase healthy, local foods and provide farm and garden based education, the grants keep millions of federal dollars within our state, support the livelihoods of local farmers, and connect children to Oregon agriculture while helping them build healthy habits for life.

As a small, community based nonprofit, these grants directly benefit Zenger Farm's programs and our community, located in one of the most racially diverse and food insecure neighborhoods of Portland. The OR Farm to School grant program allows Zenger Farm to provide local food and nutrition education and interactive field trips to over 4,000 Portland children. These benefits ripple throughout the community as children share their new knowledge with family and friends.

Please do all you can to restore the 15 million dollars of funding for the Oregon Farm to School Grant Program as an investment in our children's futures, and in Oregon agriculture. Thank you.