April, 22, 2021
Tri-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward and Rayfield and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Christopher Lyans and I am testifying on behalf of Deck Family Farm, 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 Deck Family Farms, by providing funding for
Under served youth and local education institutions who may not have the means to access high quality farm fresh grass-fed organic protein, and otherwise fat-soluble vitamins and minerals.

I have been impressed with the Farm to School organizer's passion for the genuine well fare of our local communities. As well as the school administrators who do all they can do get high quality ingredients into their student's food programs.

 I have thoroughly enjoyed serving institutions like Multnomah County Dept. of Community Justice Juvenile Serv. Dept. who has reported two thumbs up, immensely satisfying, simply a higher level of food quality over tater tots and commodity chicken products, and it shows in the kid's attitudes.

At Deck Family Farm we seek out opportunities to educate the community on the beneficial aspects of regenerative farming. The Farm to School program has helped our outreach become full dimensional. By allowing funding to local schools, it allows us to share what we do in a full taste, smell and feel experience.

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.

Especially during these times of health uncertainty our kids need healthy food!

Christopher Lyans

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