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Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

3.16.23

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain and members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of **Central Point School District 6** in support of the Farm to School Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Education’s budget. This Grant program provides critical funding for schools and early childhood education programs to purchase Oregon foods, hands-on farm and garden education programs, equipment and infrastructure for food producers and technical assistance for the farm to school community. Sustaining the current level of \$10.2 million dollars will support dependable business relationships between schools and food producers and maintain consistent educational programs that connect students to agriculture and nutrition

The Farm to School Program has served our 5 elementary schools for many years. Our district has invested significant time and financial resources to install school gardens at all our elementary sites. This joint effort between organizations has pooled our resources and provided an enhanced educational experience for thousands of students. Our students gain knowledge and skills that can’t be achieved in a typical classroom setting. Additionally, the application of the knowledge and skills towards engaging in healthy eating habits is evident throughout the program.

I support this grant program because:

- It builds skills for wellness and health in kids and communities
- It builds a strong local food system and supports our local economy
- It supports high levels of student engagement in our classrooms

I ask that you support including this grant program in the Oregon Department of Education’s budget at the current level of \$10.2 million so this program can continue to support healthy kids, schools and communities. Thank you for your time.

Walt Davenport
Superintendent
Central Point School District 6