



MUDBONE GROWN LLC

Mudbone Family Farm
Corbett, OR 97019

Written Testimony

To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
[900 Court Street NE](#)
[Salem, Oregon 97301](#)

March 16, 2023

Co-Chairs Senator Dembrow and Representative Pham and members of the Committee

I am writing on behalf of Mudbone Grown in support of the request to include the Farm to School Equipment and Infrastructure Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's budget. This Grant program provides funding for food producers to access necessary equipment to meet the demands of the school marketplace.

As a social enterprise farm, Mudbone Grown works to grow community and culturally relevant crops that center the Black Community as well as many other communities of color. We received this grant funding in 2018 to ready our farm with infrastructure and food safety measures through the addition of cold storage on our farm that enabled us to work smarter especially in the hotter summer months. Cold storage is a game changer to a small to medium sized farmer and the Farm to School dollars that we received for this back in 2018 are still being put to use today. Not only were we able at the time to provide more care for the produce we provided our community members, it also allowed us to manage the care of our on-farm livelihood which was reflected in our work and our relationships throughout the season. Infrastructure dollars are key to farmers, especially small farmers growth in this industry allowing for a more competitive marketplace which serves the overall greater local food economy.

We support this grant program because it addresses a significant barrier for small and mid-sized producers selling to schools and is unique and valuable to food producers who aspire to enter the school food market. In Oregon, there is a significant need for food producers to be equipped to meet the growing demand from schools for local products. Schools and child care centers have specific requirements for products in regards to quantities, delivery, storage and food safety.

I ask that you support including this grant program in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's budget at \$500,000 as previously requested in ODA's Agency Request Budget. Thank you for your time.

Shantae Johnson
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