

Submitter: Luciana Valadez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5014

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

3/21/2023

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

I am writing on behalf of Valadez Organic Produce 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

As an producer,

I/we 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
- Supports schools as hubs for communities especially during times of crisis such as wildfires and pandemic
- It helps serve the the underserved communities, where one would typically not be able to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables.
- It helps support local, small farms.
- It teaches children self sustaining experiences.
- It teaches children where their food comes from.

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.

Luciana Valadez
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