



March 21, 2023

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

RE: HB 5014 , Keep Farm to School Funding in ODE Budget

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

I am writing on behalf of Willamette Farm and Food Coalition, and we support the Oregon Department of Education's Farm to School Grant Program. Farm to School dollars have a big impact on school nutrition and the state economy. The Farm to School Grant provides students with healthy meals and learning opportunities, while schools get much needed assistance and infrastructure support and local farms and businesses are able to create more employment opportunities for Oregonians.

Willamette Farm and Food Coalition provides technical assistance to schools as they maximize the impact made with these funds. 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.

Willamette Farm and Food Coalition supports the Farm to School Grant Program because

- It provides unique learning opportunities for student
- It supports health and wellness in school communities
- It has a multiplicative economic impact in our state
- It contributes to the success of local farms and ranches
- It supports classified school staff in their critical supports of students' education and success

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Genevieve Schaack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Genevieve Schaack
Willamette Farm and Food Coalition
Eugene, OR