

Submitter: Melina Barker
On Behalf Of: Oregon Farm to School Network
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2684

TO: House Committee on Education

FROM: Melina Barker, Oregon Farm to School Network

SUBJECT: Yes on HB 2684

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melina Barker, I am the Director of the Oregon Farm to School Network, a community -driven network of over 2,000 teachers, food producers, child nutrition professionals, nonprofit organizations and individuals. On behalf of the Oregon Farm to School Network, I am writing in support of HB 2684. School Gardens are critical resources for schools to use as outdoor classrooms and serve to connect students to the natural world and learn about where their food comes from. All too often these spaces are subject to pesticide use without notice or consultation with the garden coordinator. Our community supports increased transparency regarding products used on school grounds, especially school gardens. Many school gardens provide food for student consumption either through cafeteria meals or classroom tasting opportunities. In addition, gardens are often managed using organic principles and use of pesticides can compromise the integrity of these practices.

We urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Melina Barker

Director

Oregon Farm to School Network