

Submitter: Patrick Roelle  
On Behalf Of: Fishpatricks Specialty Canned Tuna  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

Fishpatrick's Specialty Canned Tuna  
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Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
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3-12-2025

Co-Chairs Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz and members of the Committee

I am writing today to support the funding of the Farm to School Grant Program included in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at \$12 million dollars. This is a 9% increase from the current service level. This Grant program provides funding for the schools and early childhood education programs to purchase Oregon foods, hands on farm and garden education programs and technical assistance for the farm to school community. This past biennium, there were over \$15 million dollars of requests for this funding. With increases in the costs of food, supplies and staffing over the past few years, this modest increase is needed simply to maintain the current level of programming.

Fishpatrick's Specialty Canned Tuna currently serves Reedsport, Roseburg, Glide, Riddle, and South Umpqua Douglas County School Districts, and also the Eugene 4 J school district in Lane County. We are expanding our efforts to get Oregon's world class quality albacore tuna into additional districts throughout this entire state. Farm to School dollars give us continued hope to find a market for our Oregon landed Albacore. This program offers hope to many of Oregon's farmers, ranchers and fishers to find local markets for their premium products. The close relationships between producers and school districts continue to expand. This grant program needs these additional dollars to maintain the momentum going forward.

Please support the inclusion of this grant program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at \$12 million.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Patrick Roelle  
Fishpatrick's Specialty Canned Tuna  
Reedsport, Oregon