

Submitter: Rebecca Easton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

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

I am testifying today in support of funding for the Farm to School Grant Program included in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at \$12 million dollars. This represents a 9% increase from the current service level. This Grant program provides funding for 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 costs of food, supplies and staffing over the past few years, this modest increase is needed simply to maintain the current level of programming.

I support this program because, as an educator for over 20 years, I have seen the effects of hands-on educational experiences for students. Students, families and communities all benefit when education about agriculture, nutrition and well being are an integral part of their daily lives through programs like Farm to Table.

Please support this program!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Easton

Elementary Educator

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