

Submitter: Dominick Stewart
On Behalf Of: 12 Million for Farm to School
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

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

3/6/2025

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

I'm a student at Mapleton High School in Mapleton, Oregon, and I'm writing to express my support for the Farm to School Grant Program. This program is really important to me and my fellow students because it helps our school buy fresh, locally grown food and supports educational programs that teach us about farming and nutrition.

I've seen how this program makes a difference in our school - as someone who eats school lunches everyday, we notice the difference with quality ingredients. Plus, our school garden is an amazing place to learn about science and sustainability - I'm planning a career in botany in my future. We get to plant and harvest our own fruits and veggies, which is both fun and can help us have healthier food our whole lives.

I know that the budget request is for \$12 million, which is a bit more than before. But with everything costing more these days, this increase is necessary to keep the program going strong.

I believe this program is crucial for creating a healthier and more sustainable food system in Oregon. It supports local farmers, helps our schools be better community hubs, and teaches us important skills about wellness and nutrition.

I hope you'll consider supporting the Farm to School Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Education's budget. It makes a real difference in our lives as students.

Thank you for listening to my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Dominick Stewart
Mapleton High School
Mapleton, OR"