

Submitter: Lindsey Bellefeuille  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

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

3/20/2025

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative Levy and members of the  
Committee

I am writing to you as a community member of Coos County in support of the Farm to School Equipment and Infrastructure Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's budget. This Grant program provides funding for food producers to access necessary equipment to meet the demands of the school marketplace.

Last year I worked with local schools and organizations in Coos County to help them apply for farm to school funding, which allowed my local boys and girls club to expand their garden program for the first time. We were able to get kids outside in the garden multiple times a week to learn about plants, sustainable agriculture, local food systems, and nutrition. The kids who chose to participate often had no garden at home and had never heard of or tried some of the vegetables they were growing. The education that Farm to School brings kids and the access to fresh foods is vital to growing up with better health outcomes.

I support this grant program because everyone who participates in this program benefits. Schools, Farmers, Educators, and the kids that they are serving all benefit from Farm to School. Farm to school is a unique opportunity and relationship for schools to be able to serve high quality produce to students, while supporting local economies and agriculture in the process.

I ask that you support this grant program in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's budget at \$1 million. Thank you for your time.

Lindsey Bellefeuille  
Community Volunteer

Bandon, OR