

Submitter: Rebecca Slosberg  
On Behalf Of: 1M for Farm to School  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Natural Resources  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5502

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

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

I am writing on behalf of Rogue Valley Farm to School 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.

Rogue Valley Farm School offers Technical Assistance to Farmers in our region to sell to schools. The grant funding for Infrastructure and Equipment has been an important piece of increasing Farm to School in our region. We have supported producers and schools in applying for and receiving these grant funds.

We support this grant program because it addresses a significant barrier for small and mid-sized producers selling to schools. This program is unique and valuable to food producers who aspire to enter the school food market. In Oregon, there is a significant need for food producers to be equipped to meet the growing demand from schools for local products. Schools and child care centers have specific requirements for products in regards to quantities, delivery, storage and food safety. Many school sites do not have the equipment to process fresh fruits and vegetables. This funding can take down these barriers to local procurement.

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

Rebecca Slosberg  
Co-Executive Director  
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