

Submitter: Leann Graves

On Behalf Of:

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

RE: Support for the Farm to School Producer Equipment and Infrastructure Grant Program.

I am writing on behalf of our local farms and producers in the Lincoln County region as well as all producer in Oregon 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.

This grant is critical to ensure the continued success of producers already supplying food to our local schools. It is also critical infrastructure to help new producers gain the equipment and supplies they might need to help develop new growth opportunity within the school food service programs.

- 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 childcare centers have specific requirements for products in regards to quantities, delivery, storage and food safety.

Goods that come to our school children from local sources provide learning and growth opportunities not only for our youth, but our school employees, and build strong and vital bonds in our communities.

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

Leann Graves
Staff Training Coordinator

SodexoLLC/Lincoln County
Toledo, OR.