

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to urgently request your support for SB 5502. Last year, the Oregon Department of Agriculture received over \$4M in grant requests but only had \$500K to distribute, leaving many producers without the support they need. By increasing the funding to \$1M, we can ensure that more Oregon products are served to children and schools across the state. It is imperative that we support farmers and producers in helping them get their products into schools. We witness every day the lack of healthy and meaningful foods available to our students, which not only results in a lack of nutrition, but also in their lack of connection to the social and environmental benefits of knowing where their food comes from. Helping to bridge farmers with schools is a win in terms of establishing a strong economy, but also in strengthening the social bonds that help our state to be a leader in how to move forward in deeply uncertain times. Please consider how meaningful this action will be, across social, economic, and political lines. Thank you!