

Submitter: John Felsner  
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 Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Date

Co-Chairs Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz and members of the Committee I am testifying today in support of funding for the Farm to School Grant Program included in the Oregon Department of Education's budget at \$12 million dollars. This represents a 9% increase from the current service level. This Grant program provides funding for schools and early childhood education programs to purchase Oregon foods, hands-on farm and garden education programs and technical assistance for the farm to school community. This past biennium, there were over \$15 million dollars of requests for this funding. With increases in costs of food, supplies and staffing over the past few years, this modest increase is needed simply to maintain the current level of programming.

My wife and I have not only farmed in Oregon for the past 18 years, we have a 12 and 8 year old enrolled in Portland Public Schools. We have seen how this program benefits farmers, children, teachers, by bringing much needed revenue to large and small farms, as well as bringing much needed food and resources to schools.

Please consider supporting this modest proposal, it is a necessary (though still inadequate) demand for the benefit of all our Oregon communities as well as a valuable revenue stream for the agriculture that brings food to all of our tables!