

Submitter: Micah Hillis  
On Behalf Of: Farm 2 School  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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

4/10/25

Co-Chairs Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez and members of the Committee:

Our children have to eat. The power to direct their nutrition is in our hands, and as caring humans and public servants, we must accept this responsibility. I am testifying today in support of funding for the Farm to School Grant Program included in the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Department of Agriculture budgets. This funding supports nutritious food for our children AND supports Oregon's local economies. If we have to feed them, let's feed them well and support Oregon at the same time.

We are asking the legislature to support:

\$12M for Farm to School in the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) budget  
\$1M for Farm to School in the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) budget  
Fully funding HB 3435, School Meals for All

With the elimination of federal funding sources and the rising costs of food, supplies, and staffing, a modest increase in funding is crucial for the sustainability of this important program.

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