

Submitter: Katie Swanson
On Behalf Of: Farm to School
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Our Farm to School programs affect so many people in positive ways. I'm the owner of Sweet Union Farm, a vegetable farm in Klamath Falls and have benefitted so much from our local schools having funds to source fresh vegetables from my farm. It's helped my business grow and expand and connect with the community in a really special way. I've been fortunate enough to visit the schools the day they eat my produce, help serve the food and chat with the kids about how I grow the carrots, spinach, etc. They have so many questions and are so excited - some kids have never seen a full carrot before! This program is so much bang for your buck: the kids benefit from the nutrition and education from meeting farmers and growing their own in school gardens, it supports local farm businesses and it strengthens our regional food security in a variety of ways.

I'm asking the legislature to support:

- \$12M to farm to school in the ODE budget
- \$1M to farm to school in the ODA budget
- Fully funding HB3435, School Meals for All

This funding is especially important with the elimination of federal funding sources. Every kid deserves access to nutritious food while they are at school, no matter where they come from or what their families financial situation is.

Thank you,
Katie Swanson