



April 24, 2025

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Director of the Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC). The OOC brings together businesses, farmers, organizations, and other stakeholders to provide direction, advocacy, and support for activities that promote and grow organic practices and the trade in Oregon and beyond.

The OOC has long supported Farm to School advocacy and I am weighing in again to request that the legislature expand current funding for this important and critical programming by \$12 million in the Oregon Department of Education's budget.

Many farmers providing produce for Farm to School programs are organic or use organic practices. Organic producers receive an extra point in the Oregon Farm to School Equipment and Infrastructure grant scoring rubric for being certified organic, highlighting the health and environmental benefits of organic production.

Federal funding workforce reductions and grant cancellations and freezes to crucial farm to school programs, such as Local Food for Schools, which would have brought \$6 million in federal funding to Oregon, are seriously undermining the progress that has been made in building resilient regional food systems with school food as a cornerstone. In light of the elimination of federal programs and funding, Oregon needs to make state investments now more than ever.

Many thanks for your work on this exciting and critical package.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Amy Wong
Oregon Organic Coalition