



June 2, 2017

Oregon Legislative Assembly  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: HB 2038 Support; Farm to School**

Dear Oregon Senators and Representatives:

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association ("OCA") is the voice of the cattle industry in Oregon. We represent over 2,000 ranchers in Oregon and aim to help grow Oregon's beef industry and promote environmentally and socially sound economic practices in producing beef products sold worldwide. We are writing to express our strong support for HB 2038, the Farm to School Bill, and to request that you do all you can to maintain funding for the Program. HB 2038 is good for Oregon and good for Oregon's kids. As a state that's heavily dependent on agriculture, it's a great idea to ensure that our schools are feeding kids Oregon beef, wheat, fruit and nuts. It is always good to support our local farmers and ranchers.

HB 2038 would provide funding, in the form of grants administered by Oregon Department of Education, to reimburse school districts for their purchases of Oregon grown and processed foods and for food-based, agriculture-based or garden-based educational activities.

We understand that funding for the Program has been eliminated in the Ways and Means Target Reduction Lists released in April, which we feel is unacceptable.

Funding the Farm to School program helps children understand agriculture, will give our kids a better sense for how food gets to their tables, and how important Oregon agriculture is locally, nationally and globally. In a time when we discuss at length the divide between urban and rural understanding, HB 2038 can be a small step in bridging that gap.

Farm to school is one of those rare issues that connects our rural and urban citizens and enjoys bipartisan support. Let's not be known as the state that canceled a program that is a win-win-win for kids, farmers, and communities. Please do all you can to preserve funding for this important program!

Sincerely,

Jerome Rosa

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Rosa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director