

From: Tonya Haworth
To: [JWMED Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of HB2038
Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 8:34:51 AM
Attachments: [HB 2038.docx](#)

Education Subcommittee of Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

June 21, 2017

Dear Co-chairs Senator Monroe and Representative Smith Warner and members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Organically Grown Company (OGC), to ask you to do all that you can to preserve funding for Oregon's Farm to School and School Garden program, through HB 2038. I understand that funding for the Program has been eliminated in the current version of the legislature's proposed state budget. The Farm to School Program should not be eliminated, while other programs are simply reduced; to do so, would be doing Oregon's schools, children and agricultural communities a disservice, and would be a missed opportunity to fully utilize existing funding, as the Farm to School Program leverages federal dollars. Not only do Oregon's Farm to School Programs educate and inspire children to eat healthier, fresh food, these programs create stronger, more connected communities, creating local economic and social growth, while positively compounding the impact of other initiatives encouraging children and families to eat healthier.

We have seen, firsthand, the way that farmers, businesses, schools and Farm to School programs can work together to build community around the incredible support we all share for Oregon's Farm to School programs, and bring healthy, fresh food to children, through OGC's Farm to School apple program. The Farm to School Apple program is a partnership that includes Organically Grown Company -- the Pacific Northwest's largest Organic produce distributor (OGC), participating Northwest retailers, participating organic apple orchards, and Oregon Farm to School. OGC developed this program to help supplement and enhance the state and federal funding these programs receive.

All proceeds raised from the sale of Farm to School apples are used to support non-profit programs, which provide farm to school education to K-12 students, including activities such as farm field trips, school gardens, cooking in the classroom, or tasting tables in the cafeteria and/or support schools in purchasing more local and organic products to be served as part of a lunch or snack program. It is the intent of the program that these funds will promote greater access to local and organic fruits and vegetables in schools.

Without continued state support, these programs cannot continue to survive and thrive, so we ask that you please do all you can to preserve funding for this important program!
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

tonya Quinn haworth

About Organically Grown Company: Founded in 1978, employee and grower-owned Organically Grown Company (OGC) is the largest organic produce distributor in the Pacific Northwest. From locations in Oregon and Washington, OGC works with more than 300 growers and vendors to market and distribute produce to over 500 retail, wholesale and restaurant customers throughout the greater Pacific Northwest and beyond. OGC's trademarked LADYBUG brand represents more than 30 Northwest, family-owned, organic and Salmon-Safe certified farms and is sold in markets across the United States and Canada. OGC has been recognized as a leader in sustainable business practices including sourcing 100% renewable energy in facilities, operating their own Clean Air certified truck fleet, support for fair trade and charitable giving. Their mission is "Promoting health through organic agriculture as a leading sustainable organization." www.organicgrown.com

tonya Quinn haworth

Marketing Communications Manager

P: 503.907.3705



Organically Grown Company

20078 N.E. Sandy Blvd. | Portland, OR 97230 | organicgrown.com | 503.907.3600 | 800.203.1687

Employee and Grower Owned | Promoting Health through Organic Agriculture as a Leading Sustainable Organization