



*From the Office of*  
**REPRESENTATIVE BILL POST**

**For Immediate Release**

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Contact: Tayleranne Gillespie, 541-554-6631

Email: [tayleranne.gillespie@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:tayleranne.gillespie@oregonlegislature.gov)

**Post Submits Testimony Supporting Farm to School Program**

Salem, Ore. – Today, Representative Bill Post (R-Keizer) submitted testimony to the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education advocating for continued support of the Farm to School Program and released the following statement highlighting the importance of this program:

“The Farm to School Program not only helps our schools get good quality food to our students, but it also means that our local farms can sell their products and keep working to support our food needs. We cannot let a program like this fall to the wayside because of budget cuts. Our kids and our farmers deserve our support.”

His complete testimony is available below:

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in support of the Farm to School Program which is currently at risk of being eliminated should funding be reduced. This program incorporates local food into school meals while providing access to healthy foods for students.

From 2018-2019, the Farm to School program has reached over 249,411 students in Oregon. In just 12 weeks throughout this pandemic, the Umatilla School District alone has provided over 105,000 meals for students. This program was established in 2011 and has been so successful, the legislature UNANIMOUSLY expanded to the program in 2019 with HB 2579A.

In my district alone, Champoeg Creek Farm located in St. Paul began selling pasture-raised poultry to the Portland Public Schools in 2019. Over 17,000 lbs of turkey was sold to the school and in 2020-2021, Champoeg Farm is on track to sell 62,000 lbs of turkey.

With our economy at an all-time low, access to local and nutritional meals are an absolute necessity. Not only are we supporting local farms, but we are ensuring students have healthy meals that include fruits and vegetables from our farmers instead of processed foods. In fact, the Salem-Keizer School district is currently providing both lunch and dinner for students.

We are in very unprecedented times, and difficult decisions need to be made, but let's make sure we put students first and ensure their health and basic needs are being met as best as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Post". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "B" and "P".