



OREGON FARMERS FEEDING OREGON KIDS

HB 2800 invests \$22.6 million and returns well-fed kids, \$100+ million in economic development and hundreds of new jobs in Oregon



WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

This bill allocates up to 15¢ per lunch and 7¢ per breakfast served to incorporate Oregon agricultural products into school meals. To qualify for this state investment, schools must purchase an equal amount of Oregon products using federal school meal funds.

Mini-grants to support school gardens and other agriculture and food-based learning programs are also included in the bill.

For more information:

Deborah Kane, Ecotrust,
503.467.0763, dkane@ecotrust.org

Deb Lippoldt, Growing Gardens,
503.284.8420, deb@growing-gardens.org

Mel Rader, Upstream Public Health,
503-284.6390
mel@upstreampublichealth.org

CHEW ON THIS:

- Oregon is one of a handful of states that doesn't contribute additional funds to support implementation of the National School Lunch and Breakfast program.
- Oregon agriculture deserves a spot in the lunch line. This bill makes it possible for the state's agricultural community – from farmers to food processors, manufacturers and distributors – to more fully participate in bringing great Oregon products into the school lunchroom.
- By requiring a federal match, HB 2800 keeps more school food money in Oregon that could generate as much as \$118 million in economic activity per biennium and as many as 477 new jobs per year.
- In Oregon 46% of the meals we serve in schools go to children from low-income households. School meals have historically served as the front line against hunger, providing the primary source of food and nutrients for many children. This bill would ensure that Oregon's most vulnerable children have equal access to great food.
- Childhood obesity and related health problems are escalating at an alarming rate. This bill presents viable strategies for addressing obesity and other weight related issues because providing an environment where good eating behaviors can be practiced and reinforced during childhood will carry over into adulthood.
- Cafeterias, school gardens and farm fields are great classrooms. In fact studies show that student preference for healthy fruits and vegetables increases when garden and other agriculture and food-based learning programs are in place. This bill helps create food literate, lifelong healthy eaters by providing vital hands-on food and garden-based education.
- Non profit-organizations, the private sector and philanthropic entities have all already made investments in Oregon school food and gardens and established a set of best practices; **it's time for the state to invest as well.**

This bill addresses two issues at once: bolstering the Oregon economy AND adequately funding our school meals program.