

IF CREATING JOBS AND INCREASING STATE INCOME ARE OREGON PRIORITIES, FUNDING HB 2800 IS AN OREGON IMPERATIVE

School Food: Fuel for kids' minds, bodies AND the state's economy

Fork Ready Cafeterias, Shovel Ready Gardens

HB 2800 brings more Oregon, grown, processed and manufactured foods into the school lunchroom and for dessert – we enjoy economic development impacts that span the state. The bill also provides grants for agriculture- and garden-based education.

Do the Math

Over the biennium, Oregon schools will spend \$140 million of federal funds on food. HB 2800 adds \$19.6 million to their food budget as an incentive for schools to buy expressly from Oregon farmers and food manufacturers.

In order to access state funds, schools must first demonstrate a one-to-one-match using National School Lunch and Breakfast program funds. The economic impact is thus compounded, with a minimum of \$39.2 million pumped into rural Oregon and agricultural industries immediately.

The Homework is Done

Through a pilot project, two school districts (Gervais and Portland) received \$66,000 to buy Oregon grown products. And buy they did. Over a 14 week time period, local purchases in the two districts totaled \$225,000 – a 241% increase over the initial investment. Local purchases spanned all products categories (fresh, frozen, canned, main meal entrees, dairy, bread products, etc.), and in many cases schools substituted Oregon products for items that otherwise had been coming from out of state. Analysts calculated the economic multiplier effect at 1.87, with local food purchases inspiring economic activity in 401 out of 409 Oregon economic sectors.

HB 2800 Passes the Test

- ✓ Brings federal dollars into Oregon
- ✓ Is not a new program – it builds on ODA's and ODE's existing farm to school programs¹
- ✓ Creates 477 jobs²
- ✓ Returns \$100+ million in economic activity³
- ✓ Invests in a recession proof sector⁴
- ✓ Affects all of Oregon agriculture
- ✓ Leverages lottery dollars appropriately
- ✓ Combats obesity⁵
- ✓ Saves money through reduced health care costs⁶
- ✓ Increases demand for Oregon products
- ✓ Grows food literate eaters⁷
- ✓ Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Makes kids, parents, teachers and farmers smile

See back page for citations and additional information.



For more information about HB 2800, contact the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network:

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

References

- ¹ ODA's farm to school program was created in 2007 and ODE's farm to school and school gardens program was established in 2008.
- ² Job creation calculations assume: \$9.6 million state investment, \$9.6 million in required federal school meal program funds, and an additional \$9.6 million of inspired purchases and trade substitutions. Jobs created in one school year break down as follows: 219 (direct), 180 (indirect), 79 (induced) for a total of 477 new jobs.
- ³ Analysts estimate \$53,841,210 in economic activity per school year, for a total of \$107,682,420 per biennium.
- ⁴ On March 18, 2009 the Northwest Food Processors Association noted that food processing was the only manufacturing sector in Oregon to show positive employment gain in 2008, as cited in an Oregon Employment Department report.
- ⁵ Oregon's Task Force for a Comprehensive Obesity Prevention Initiative cited farm to school programs as a key strategy for combating obesity (pg. 12, March 2009).
- ⁶ Each biennium, Oregon spends \$1.6 billion dollars in taxpayer money on obesity-related medical expenses.
- ⁷ Studies show that farm to school programs are most successful when cafeteria changes are coupled with agriculture- and garden-based education.

For more information about HB 2800,
contact the Oregon Farm to School and
School Garden Network:

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