

Local Farms Healthy Kids

HB2798 / SB6483 prime sponsors are
Representative Eric Pettigrew and Senator Brian Hatfield



Support Washington Farmers and Fresh, Healthy Food for Our Kids

Productive farmland and vibrant communities are hallmarks of Washington's way of life. Increased pressures from higher operating costs and development can threaten the vitality of our local farms. Many children in our state lack access to healthy food. Washington farms can prosper with increased markets for local crops while providing nutritious food for kids in our schools. "Local Farms – Healthy Kids" is an idea that brings these goals of strong working farms and healthy kids into one legislative proposal.



Win-Win Opportunity

Experts believe providing school-age kids with fresh and more nutritious foods is one of the best ways we can help them thrive. Schools and other institutions represent a huge, stable market for Washington farmers. Increasing consumption of food that has been grown and produced locally reduces packaging, refrigeration, storage and transportation, requiring less energy and resulting in less waste. However, there are legal, financial and infrastructure barriers that often prevent purchasing by schools and other institutions from local farms. This year the state legislature has the opportunity to help address these challenges.

“ Growing fruit for our kids to eat right here in Washington State just makes good sense; it provides us with a stable market, and reduces our costs and environmental impact. ”

–Jim Baird
Baird Orchards
Othello, WA

“ Fresh, nutritious, local food just tastes better, and will give students a better chance to learn and grow while they are at school. ”

–Georgia Johnson
Food Services Manager
La Conner School District
La Conner, WA

The Local Farms –Healthy Kids Legislation Would:

1 Get Good Food Into the Lunchroom.

Establish a Farm To School program that will facilitate the purchasing of Washington-grown farm products by schools. Create a Washington-Grown Fruits and Vegetables Program that will fund a fresh food snack program in schools with high numbers of low-income students.

2 Create New Markets for Local Farmers.

Ease state procurement restrictions to better enable school districts and state entities to choose local. Such policies have been adopted in other states, would jumpstart the farm to school connection and create new, stable markets for our farmers, supporting economic vitality in our rural communities.

3 Helping Those Who Need It Most.

This effort will make it easier for low income families to purchase locally grown food by enabling farmers markets to accept food stamps, increasing funding of the Farmers Market Nutrition Program and creating pilot projects for food banks to purchase fresh food directly from Washington farms.



Widespread Support

This effort to make Washington a national leader in promoting local produce in our schools and other institutions is one of the environmental community's four Priorities for a Healthy Washington.

The Local Farms-Healthy Kids initiative is supported by a broad array of organizations, community leaders and individuals from farmers to children's groups and schools, public health advocates to religious and anti-hunger organizations.

Support from the Community Includes:

Farming Community

Alm Hill Gardens
Baird Orchards
Bellewood Acres
Bellingham Farmers Market
Blue Heron Farm
Devine Gardens
Double Rainbow Farm
Eaton Season Ranch
Full Circle Farm
Growing Washington
Heifer International
Let Us Farm
Nash's Organic Produce
Ninety Farms, Arlington, WA
Nooksack Nine Fruits and Veggies
PCC Farmland Trust
Red Shed Produce
Saving Seeds Farm
Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
Small Potatoes Gleaning Project
South Whidbey Tilth
Stanwood Camano Farm Tour
The Cascade Harvest Coalition
The Lands Council
Tilth Producers of WA
Tonnemaker Family Orchards
21 Acres
Victory's Organic Gardens
Washington State Farm Bureau
Washington State Farmers Market Association
Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network
Willie Greens Farm
Yerbas de Yakima Organic Hay Farm

Children's Health/Poverty Community

Acting Food Policy Council
Food Lifeline
Greater Seattle Dietetic Association
Northwest Harvest
Nutrition Trails
Odessa Brown Children's Clinic
Solid Ground
The Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition
The Children's Alliance
Thurston County Food Bank
Washington Association of Local WIC Agencies
Washington Food Coalition

Faith, Business, Teachers, Parents, School Nutritionists:

Bridgeport School District
Earth Ministry
Good Food Strategies
Health Freedom Washington
Lifelong Aids Alliance
Lincoln School PTA
Lutheran Public Policy Office
PCC Natural Markets
Slow Food Seattle
Slow Food Skagit
Sno-Isle Natural Foods Co-op
Sound Body Nutrition
Spokane Community College
Sustainable Connections
University of Washington
School of Public Health
Washington State Catholic Conference
Washington State PTA
Washington State Unitarian Universalist
Voices for Justice
Wellpinit School District

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