

**Braeside Farms, LLC  
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Estacada, Oregon 97023**

February 9, 2013

Dear Members of the Oregon House Agriculture Committee,

As a life long farmer and advocate of Oregon Agriculture, I am writing to voice my support for bringing the Aggie Bond Program (HB 2700) to our fine state.

Farming has a proud tradition in Oregon. But, many new farmers lack access to affordable financing for both equipment and land. On numerous occasions, I have spoken with new and prospective farmers about the challenges they face in accessing the funds necessary to pursue their farming endeavors.

In particular, because much of Oregon's value added farming occurs near major metropolitan areas, new farmers often find themselves farming small plots of land with little equipment. Aggie Bonds are perfect for these new farmers. The relatively low interest rate loans help the farmers get started. These loans also allow the new farmers to focus on farming not on how they will cover the interest on their loan payments.

As you know farming is a capitol intensive business. Yet, access to reasonable funding to get a small operation up and running usually comes in the form of home equity lines of credit or even credit cards. Such sources are no way to run a business. Indeed, farmers are resourceful but, access to better financial tools will allow them to focus on farming not on “creative” financing.

Please support bringing the Aggie Bond Program to Oregon. I would like to see the next generation of farmers, get a fighting chance at running their businesses.

Respectfully ,

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