

Committee Members,

I'm writing to provide testimony in support of HB 2700, the bill to create a lending program for small and beginning farmers.

I'm a second year farmer in Polk County. In 2012 my partner and I leased one acre for vegetable production. The produce was sold at local farmers markets and we turned a profit.

This season we are renting the same acre with the additions of a hothouse for seedlings and a high tunnel for season extension. We expect to up production, sell to new markets and engage our customers in Portland and Polk County with weekly produce boxes. We've invested all our capital in our endeavor. In the future we will lease or buy more acreage for produce and grains, buy the equipment and infrastructure that we need, add livestock, and provide jobs in rural Oregon.

As our farm gains ground we'll be needing better access to capital to make our farm a success. With smart and strategic investing in our early years we'll be more likely to achieve our farm's goals. The passage of HB 2700 is integral in growing our small farm.

Thank you for your support,

Julie Noble  
Beautiful Buffalo Farm  
15175 Airlie Rd.  
Monmouth OR, 97361