

Hello Representative Witt and Ms. Patrino,

Attached is a copy of testimony that I made to the Agriculture Committee on December 11, 2012 regarding the proposal that Oregon begin an Aggie Bonds program to provide financial assistance to small and beginning farmers, especially to support their ability to purchase land to farm on.

I so appreciate that the Oregon State legislature is willing to consider this issue, and hope that a program like this can become a reality in Oregon. It would have made a tremendous difference to our farm as we tried to purchase our farm land, and I know how much this support would mean to the many hardworking and dedicated people who are working to make small farming in Oregon a thriving part of our state's economy and our local and regional food systems.

Thank you so much for all that you do on behalf of all Oregonians!

Best regards,

Teresa Retzlaff