

Chair Roblan, members of the committee:

I'm writing to support passage of HB 2393, on behalf of the Oregon Farmers' Markets Association, (a member of the Oregon Grows Partnership), Corvallis-Albany Farmers' Markets, and the many direct marketing farmers who are key to revitalizing local food systems, stimulating grass roots economic development, improving food security and providing healthy choices for Oregon families.

Although the poultry produced under ORS 603.038 is sold on-farm and not at farmers' markets, we still strongly support this well-crafted measure to finish the job we started in 2011. A conditional use process is likely a fatal blow to the business plan of most farmers seeking to operate under this longstanding federal poultry exemption for very small producers.

Farm direct marketing takes many forms, and they are all needed to create the food system Oregon deserves. If we make it achievable, some farmers' market vendors will take this opportunity to process poultry and sell from the farm in addition to attending farmers' markets.

Classifying these small-scale facilities as a permitted use is an appropriate level of land use permitting for operations that will have little to no impact on neighboring properties and the surrounding community. Traffic impacts in particular are modest because sales of this small number of birds will be spread out over a season, and many customers will buy to stock their freezers – instead of picking up one bird per trip.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture undertook thorough and detailed rulemaking for ORS 603.038, and the parties who advanced this bill did their homework to arrive at the best solution. The House vote of 59 ayes (plus 1 excused) indicates this bill has broad support.

All that work means this committee can be sure that the impacts will be less than or consistent with other activities in the permitted use category. And the impacts will not resemble those of activities requiring a conditional use process.

Rural economic development is always a delicate balancing effort. HB 2393 strikes exactly the right balance.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2393.