



Extension Small Farms Program

107 Crop Science Building, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-3601
T 541-737-5833 | <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu>

May 7, 2013

To the Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee

Chair: Sen. Arnie Roblan

Re: Oregon HB 2393

I am writing in support of HB 2393. This bill will clarify that small scale poultry operations operating under ORS 603.038 are a permitted farm use exempt from county-required conditional use permits. As I explained in my testimony to the House Land Use Committee in February, this is an important “fix” to assure that the legislative intent behind ORS 603.038 – to open up market opportunities for Oregon’s farmers – is fulfilled in practice.

ORS 603.038 allows small scale poultry producers to process and sell, on-farm, no more than 1000 birds per year directly to customers without incurring the significant cost of building a state-licensed processing facility. This is particularly critical for farmers located far away from a state-licensed poultry processor. Farmers operating under this law can process and sell no more than 1000 birds per year.

A conditional use permit, while potentially appropriate for larger-scale poultry processing operations, is not appropriate for micro-scale processing as is occurring under ORS 603.038. This type of processing matches the scale of other permitted farm uses, with temporary processing stations and minimal waste.

The cost of obtaining a conditional use permit essentially negates the economic opportunities for farmers envisioned by the legislature when it passed HB 2872 (now ORS 603.038) in the 2011 legislative session.

Oregon State University is also providing farmers with guidance on assuring food safety and environmental quality during open-air processing, through a “best practices” guide and workshops around the state in 2012. We have worked closely with Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety Division in this important extension effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lauren Gwin".

Lauren Gwin, PhD
Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network
Small Farm Program
Agricultural and Resource Economics Dep’t
Oregon State University