

Dear Representative Brad Witt,

I am writing as a young farmer in the process of seeking land to establish a small farm. For over a decade I have studied and worked in land-based education and growing organic food to nourish our bodies, our culture, and the soil. My partner and I have the skills and experience and training, and we're ready to start a farm.

We've been seeking farm land, but interest rates on land for even a few acres in Jackson County are extreme. Friends of Family Farmers land link program, iFarm has helped us connect with a few land-owners, and hopefully we'll be able to get our farm up and running in 2013.

HB2700 would make it easier for someone like me to establish a farm. In addition to training, grants, research and experimentation, affordable loans like the ones outlined by HB2700 would deeply support the success of beginning farmers.

I'm excited to nourish people and grow jobs in my community, to improve soil and water quality and host community events too. Thank you for supporting Oregon Aggie Bonds and helping beginning farmers.

Sincerely  
Mitra Sticklen