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Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for your service in preserving and protecting the beautiful assets of our State. I'm submitting testimony to support SB 677, which is a measure to support the establishment of a Cider business on land zoned Exclusive Farm Use.

I am a part of a family farm business, My Brothers' Farm that is currently planning to open an on- farm cidery within the next 3-5 years. With existing regulations and zoning laws, this is no small endeavor. I believe provisions for agritourism activities and marketing relating to cider would create a huge opportunity for farms be profitable and to create thriving local businesses.

The average age of an Oregon farmer is 68 years. UBG expansion and development pressure is driving up the price of farmland making it very difficult for a young person to create a successful farming business. As Oregon moves forward in creating policy relating to farm uses, we must consider the hurdles that young people face in entering this industry, and create avenues for them to be profitable. I believe SB677 would be a step in that direction.

Thank you for supporting Senate Bill 677, and the viability of Oregon's Small Farms,

Maia Hardy

My Brothers' Farm.