

To: Chairman Dembrow and committee members

From: Lynne Miller

Subject: HB 3116

My name is Lynne Miller, I am a farmer, and I sell grass fed lamb and free range eggs at my local farmer's market in Corvallis Oregon. I am also a market manager of a small winter market that has a number of egg vendors.

This testimony is in support of HB 3116. The provisions of this bill will among other things create a clear exemption for the grading of eggs sold directly to the consumer. In my opinion this exemption is vital to the continued economy of farm direct sales.

Most eggs sold in farm stands or at farmer's markets are sold within a week or two of being laid so there is no time for them to degrade. In short it is an unnecessary step in processing that puts an undue burden on the producer.

In our operation we sell between 50 & 60 dozen eggs every week, each one goes directly to the consumer and if we were required to grade those eggs it would require enough time resource from our 2 person farm that we would likely leave the egg market. It would also be an unnecessary step as the normal flow of product has us selling our entire weeks production every week and IF in the event we don't sell out the following week demand is back up and we sell out. Eggs never "last" long enough to degrade in quality.

In addition the vast majority of egg sellers at farmer's markets, road side stands, and workplaces statewide are unlicensed so there is no way to track them and police this without an HUGE undertaking by the state of both man power and resources. Neither of which the state has in abundance.

Passage of this bill will fix a problem created when the law was written as it is and how this part of the local food economy is actually conducted. The way things are now a great many people intending to follow the "law" and making a good faith effort to follow the labeling regulations are actually "lawbreakers" for simply selling eggs labeled as "ungraded"

YOU and the other legislators can help solve this problem simply by passing this bil.

Thank you for your time