

Submission of Christian Yoder to the Oregon House Interim Committee on Agriculture and Land Use Meeting on December 16, 2020.

I am a citizen of Oregon, born and raised on a small farm three miles east of Hubbard, Oregon in Clackamas County, currently retired and living in SW Portland in Multnomah County.

As an urban resident for the past decade or more, I have benefited from participating in a Community Shared Agriculture program. Farm fresh vegetables have come to my home and enhanced my health and well being. Local farming has vital significance. I am sure I am not alone in this experience. I have also benefited from seeing how some of the retail grocery outlets have consciously featured local grown alternatives and clearly explained the sources of their produce. It feels good to know one can invest in local Oregon farm production right here in the middle of urban Portland. I am very proud of Oregon small growers. They are front line health workers in my view.

My Statement to the Oregon Legislature through the Interim Committee is this:

Hear ye! Hear ye! Representatives of the Interim Committee on Agriculture and Land Use! Local grown food: meat, vegetables, fruit, grown in the soil of Oregon by Oregon growers is a vital and very significant contributor to the health and well being of all Oregonians and it should be an identifiable, conscious priority of Oregon State agriculture policy.

A question that I would ask the Interim Committee is: can anyone on the Committee please contact me at my email address below and educate me on what the Oregon State government is actively doing to enhance and support the growth of local agriculture as part of the Oregon economy? I don't have a big axe to grind. I am completely non-partisan. I consider myself to be a Republocrat. I want to educate myself as a concerned citizen and contribute to positive

government. How can I do this in the area of local agricultural issues? If someone might take the time to contact me I would appreciate it:

buckhorn.relleno@gmail.com

Finally, I would like to address an issue of much puzzlement to the common man by asking the Committee why it has been given the title of an "Interim" Committee. What fleeting temporal interval does the Committee exist within? Am I tuning into a governmental instrumentality that will expire soon? Am I wasting my time contacting a committee whose time is about to expire? Where is the big regular permanent Agriculture Committee, the big regular normal organ of State Government? Should I might better go contact those people instead of this fleeting organ of governance?

Respectfully submitted.

Christian Yoder

Oregon Citizen