

Watts Remy

From: vicki@sungoldfarm.com
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 8:36 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Oregon Crop Donation

TESTIMONY FOR SB 241

SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE By Vicki Hertel, Sun Gold Farm, LLC FEBRUARY 4, 2019

I would like to offer my support of SB 241 and the renewal and increase of the Oregon Crop Donation Tax Credit. My family owns and operates a small vegetable and fruit farm in Washington County. We sell naturally grown produce for fresh market and sell 100% of our production through local farmers markets and our CSA program.

Even on a small farm such as ours, there is some waste of edible food, either from over production or the “ugly” factor. Much of this extra food has, in the past, gone into the mulch pile. With the birth of the Crop Donation Tax Credit, we have had reason to look for an avenue to get this healthy produce to those who may not otherwise be able to afford fresh.

By the time our produce reaches the coolers, the expense of growing, harvesting, and packaging has already been incurred. The hope of a larger return on our investment and the promise that we will help to feed the hungry would be a win win situation. With an increase in credit, we could afford to actually harvest more for the Oregon Food Bank.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vicki Hertel

Owner and farmer

Sun Gold Farm, LLC