From: <u>Lainie Koch</u>
To: <u>LRO</u>

Cc: Rep Nathanson; Sen Hass

Subject: Food Roots, Testimony on SB 2164 for 6-14-2019

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019 10:09:15 PM

Dear Chair Nathanson and Chair Hass, and members of the Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures,

I am asking you to take action to ensure that Individual Development Accounts remain available to Oregonians who need them. Please include the provisions of SB 790 in HB 2164.

Individual Development Accounts are a valuable tool to give Oregonians with low incomes the boost they need to build a more secure financial future. Food Roots offers small business IDA's for entrepreneurs starting or growing their farm or food business. These matched savings funds are a huge boost for our clients and make their business plans possible.

We need the Legislature to take action to keep the Oregon IDA Initiative working in our communities, and we need to expand the reach of IDAs to more people. This valuable program is in high demand and could serve many more deserving Oregonians if the funds were available.

Thank you for all of your hard work this session, and thank you for your attention to keeping IDAs available.

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Lainie Koch

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Believing in the power of local food to transform the communities, economies and the land on the North Oregon Coast.