

Dear Chair Nathanson and the Committee,

As the President of the board of the Oregon Farmers Markets Association and as a farmer, I know how much work goes into keeping our communities fed. Often when people think of Oregon's local farmers, they picture the typical farm owner- aging, white, middle class, when the reality is that most of our food is grown and harvested by people of color, often working for very little money.

Any policy that makes it easier for those folks to support their families and gives them access to the many tax rules and benefits that I benefit from is a policy I support. We know that the EITC boosts stability for low-income workers; we know that the EITC exclusion predominantly affects Latinx and Asian American folks; and we know that those 34000 people make up a huge part of our essential workforce that has already been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. This not only affects workers, but their children and other members of mixed-status families.

This bill would give a strong boost to the income of so many folks who have helped keep our food system afloat during this time (and all times.)

Thank you for your consideration,  
Anna Hipsman Springer  
Oregon Farmers Markets Association  
Lil Starts Farm