



Friends of Family Farmers ♦ PO Box 665 ♦ Waltherville, OR 97489

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2819A

June 10, 2021

Dear Co-Chair Burdick, Co-Chair Nathanson, and Members of the Joint Committee On Revenue:

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Policy Director at Friends of Family Famers, a farmer-led non-profit organization that has advocated on behalf of socially and environmentally responsible farmers and ranchers across Oregon for over 15 years.

Family-scale farmers operate on incredibly thin margins, and young and beginning farmers especially face challenges in making ends meet. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can strengthen the economic stability of workers by raising their take-home pay, helping their families pay for essentials.

The EITC currently excludes certain workers, many deemed essential, across agriculture, food processing, retail, and construction sectors. These essential workers have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic due to racial inequities across the state.

HB 2819A allows all income-eligible workers in Oregon to claim the state's EITC regardless of how they file their taxes with an ITIN. Passing this legislation means that nearly 90,000 people living in mixed-status households in Oregon will benefit from the EITC, most of whom are children.

It is on behalf of these people, who include small farmers, that we write in support of HB 2819A and urge your support.

Sincerely,

Amy M Wong

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Policy Director
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