

Submitter: Tom Nygren
On Behalf Of: Bigleaf maple syrup producers
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB507

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the committee — my name is Tom Nygren and I'm writing on behalf of small woodland owners'

My wife and I are owner of small woodlands in Oregon. We manage these woodlands for multiple values - one of which is production of maple syrup from our bigleaf maple trees. Producing maple syrup, while not a huge industry, does provide small woodland owners with a means of acquiring periodic income to pay for taxes and maintenance of our property during the time periods between harvest of other crops. The syrup we produce can most efficiently be marketed in small quantities at local markets, food fairs, and grocery outlets.

I'm writing today in support of SB 507, which will provide much needed improvements and upgrades to Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law first enacted in 2011.

SB 507, with the forthcoming amendment, will:

Include entities that assist small producers by aggregating, delivering, and assisting with the sale of FDML eligible products, into the FDML regulatory framework.

Add steam canning and freeze drying to eligible processes that can be used for the production of preserves, jams, and canned fruit and vegetables.

Improve consumer access to FDML products by allowing additional sales opportunities through consignment.

Include certain herbal tea blends, juices, and especially maple syrup as eligible products under OR's FDML.

I am excited to see the changes proposed in SB 507. With these changes, I'll be able to market the syrup we produce at our local farm-to-market.

Our local food systems have increased demands that we must start to address — SB 507 will help Oregon farmers and producers continue to sell safe, fresh produce directly to their consumers in the modern era.

With opportunities to increase revenue through additional safe, value-added products like maple syrup, and other sap-based products from bigleaf maple (and walnut) trees, and the opportunity to expand marketing and delivery avenues, SB 507 will help both Oregon's small producers and the customers they serve.

Oregonians are demanding more local, sustainable and fresh products accessible in their communities. With the boom in farmers markets over the last decade, and the expansion of food hubs and food delivery systems, it's time to ensure Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law keeps pace.

The improvements in the legislation before you will help improve upon our robust local food system, expand producers' sales and income opportunities, and give everyone a clearer regulatory framework about what foods can and cannot be sold farm-direct.

Countless farmers and consumers benefit from this model and we support the

continuation and modernization of this important process.
I urge your support for SB 507.
Thank you for your time and consideration.