

Submitter: Patrick Fay
On Behalf Of: Hentze Family Farm
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB643

Dear Lawmakers,

I don't know if you're paying any attention to the world or not.

But we've just been through a global pandemic and there's a madman on the nuclear trigger in Russia.

Oregon is a thoroughly great example of "the path to hell is paved with good intentions".

First off, I would love for a bit of taxpayer money to track down how much food borne illness can be traced to farm direct sales of value added products?

That's a number I can't find. I'm a fairly decent researcher, but it's really hard to find examples of botulism or listeria that can be attributed to something produced under the current "Pickle Bill".

Please do not misunderstand me. Food safety is absolutely paramount. But Oregon, as is typical in "progressive" states, is way too heavy handed.

The provisions that stymie myself personally are the limitations on non farm produced ingredients. Things like ginger, etc.

But I would also like to give my thoughts on "bases". Please consider bases like Ketchup. At Hentze Family Farm we have a mobile food cart where I serve "ready to eat" simple farm fare/comfort food. For example, I serve a Pulled Pork Sandwich with Black Cherry Barbecue Sauce and Spicy Slaw. That pork is generally from Carlton Farms. The slaw is from our produce patch (and nearby sister farms). But the Black Cherry Barbecue sauce is from Black Cherries (Sweet Dark) out of our Cherry Orchard. I invented this sauce (and dish) because we used to have a Cherry Festival every year and I wanted something on the menu that made folks think "Cherries! Hentze Family Farm!". Synergy.

That sandwich is my best seller every year.

Do you know how much revenue I could add to the farm if I could sell it on the farmstand shelf?

But it is not eligible because part of the base is Heinz Ketchup. But I, as a chef, need

to have that consistent quality of Heinz as my product's base.

I suppose a decent alternative that would be more Oregon friendly would be Portland Ketchup.

But I don't like it as much as Heinz. I don't dislike it.

But as a base? Heinz is best.

Now, yes, I could get to where the farm is producing it's own ketchup. And I have made my own. It's actually pretty awesome. I do make a Blueberry Ketchup, with ginger we don't grow, that I serve with Sweet Potato Fries. And people go wild for it. But... as a base, I need Heinz.

I also make a Honey dried chili Barbecue Sauce. From honey production right on our farm.

I can't sell that in the farmstand either.

Heinz ketchup.

What's in your cupboard, lawmakers?

And what's with twenty thousand dollars as the ceiling for farm direct? Who thought that up? Do you know how hard it is to do this work? That's the ceiling? What the heck?

Can you live on 20k? Gimme a break.