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12 April, 2023

Chair Helm and Members
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use,
Natural Resources, and Water
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 507A (Updating the Farm Direct Marketing Law)

Dear Chair Helm and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 507A. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 45 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choices. We created our Food Systems Program in 2015 to expand our work with partner organizations throughout the state who are working together to build and strengthen robust and healthy food systems across Oregon.

We were among the large number of organizations that advocated for passage of the original Farm Direct marketing Law, HB 2336, in 2011. That law allows farmers to bring certain low risk, value-added products to farmer markets and their farm stands. The result has been a strengthening of local and regional food systems, as countless farmers and communities, particularly in rural Oregon, have benefited from the increased economic capital generated by farm to consumer sales

Now, a decade later, it is time to update and modernize the law. SB 507A offers a number of enhancements that will expand opportunities and benefits that this program brings.

We urge you to support SB 507A. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Holmes".

Greg Holmes
Food Systems Program Director
1000 Friends of Oregon