



Pacific Green Party of Oregon  
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April 14, 2023

Re Support of SB 507

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, and members of the committee,

I'm writing today on behalf of the Pacific Green Party and registered greens in support of SB 507A. IT will provide much needed improvements and upgrades to Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law first enacted in 2011.

SB 507A 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 maple syrup as eligible products under OR's FDML.

I have personally spoken with the farmers at my market last year in April, when the freeze around April 20 decimated the onions, asparagus and other greens. Then the summer was very hot, further stressing the other greens. It was a very difficult year - and likely not better in the future.

Changing weather patterns are a serious threat for the survival and success of smaller farmers, and those who produce a diversified set of agricultural goods.

It is also smaller farms that hold the key to maintaining biodiversity and a healthy environment while feeding all of us (thank you farmers).

With opportunities to increase revenue through additional safe, value-added products (like canned asparagus, dried persimmon or tomato, soups/sauces) and the opportunity to expand marketing and delivery avenues, SB 507A 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.

I urge your support for SB 507A. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Justin Filip**

**CoChair State Coordinating Committee**