

Submitter: Sonya Brown

On Behalf Of: Lane County Farmers Market

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: SB507

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

My name is Sonya Brown and I'm writing on behalf of the Lane County Farmers Market. I am the FMPP Grant Program Coordinator and am working on a program to aid our membership develop value-added products to bring to the market.

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

I am most excited to see SB 507A add steam canning/freeze drying techniques to the Farm Direct Marketing Law, and the inclusion of certain herbal tea blends, juices, and maple syrup as eligible products. The expansion of Farm Direct can aid small farmers tremendously; having shelf-stable products available to sell can dramatically increase a farmer's season and revenue, as well as reduce food waste. The items included in SB 507A are low-risk, so requiring farmers to be licensed to produce these products is excessive and is often cost-prohibitive when the solution is either building or renting a certified kitchen. This bill also clarifies language around what is and is not covered under Farm Direct, which currently has ambiguous language, so farmers can spend less time sifting through legislature and more time producing food.

SB 507A also includes opportunities for farms to expand marketing and delivery options, which helps producers and consumers alike. Creating more access to local food stimulates our local economy and bolsters our collective agricultural resilience.

Countless farmers and consumers benefit from these proposed updates and we support the continuation and modernization of safe food access.

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

Sincerely,

Sonya Brown