

Submitter: Kate Perle

On Behalf
Of:

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 Kate Perle, a farmer on the urban growth boundary of Eugene who makes her living selling fresh produced and stored and processed items directly to consumers through an on farm produce stand.

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.

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.

The proposed changes will help me directly. It is not always possible to sell produce while at it's peak. The ability to process it and create value added items is essential to all small scale growers. I don't grow enough of any one item to hire the local cannery to process for me-it's not economically feasible for me to utilize their service. The more choices available to me to retain value from produce I grow, the more resilient I am as a food source for my neighborhood.

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 507A. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kate Perle