

Submitter: Abigail Blinn

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 Abigail Blinn and I'm writing on behalf of Rogue Valley Farm to School. We work to get local food more readily available for families and individuals to live healthier lives and connect them with their regional economy.

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.

This is really important for any family or individuals to support their local food system and lead healthier lives

I am excited to see the changes proposed in SB 507A. With these changes, I'll be able to:

Our local food systems have increased demands that we must start to address — SB 507A will help Oregon farmers and producers continue to sell safe, fresh produce directly to their consumers in the modern era.

With opportunities to increase revenue through additional safe, value-added products like teas, juices, preserves 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.

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,

Abigail Blinn