**From:** Davidson Ian
**To:** Trant Lindsay
**Subject:** FW: HB2723
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 10:56:07 AM

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-----Original Message-----
From: harriet fasenfest [mailto:hfasenfest@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 10:54 AM
To: Davidson Ian
Cc: Leah Rodgers
Subject: HB2723

In support of HB2723 Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones

Dear Sir,

I am submitting my written support of HB2723 as both a citizen of Portland, Oregon and an urban backyard "farmer" who has taken up the task of growing food in response to environmental and food security issues facing not only our city but the country as a whole.

Though I grow a small amount of food for my family's needs I rely on small scale urban farmers to do the rest and recognize, from my close relationship with them, that the challenges of growing food within the
city limits are many. Primary among these concerns is the issue of
limited land availability and the ensuing costs - both within and without city limits. These conditions will only worsen as competition increases from both a growing farm movement and developers eager to supply housing for Portland's incredible residential growth base.

Much like the city's approach towards affordable housing and the designations of urban renewal areas, HB2723 appears to address the consequence of such growth by giving urban property owners a chance to both support small farmers (which many want to) while moderating the increasing property tax bill they are experiencing as a result of Portland's residential growth. For them, leasing to small farmers at affordable rates does not work out unless they receive some sort of tax incentive. Furthermore, as stipulated by HB2723, requiring potential lessors to lease land for a minimum of five years gives the small urban farmer ample time to recoup their development costs (and bringing urban soils to full tilth takes both time and resources) just as it will allow them the knowledge base they need before plunging deeper into farming as a career.

As to the matter of food security (an issue I am sure is in the minds and hearts of all legislators) I can see no other approach as effective as HB2723 in facing off with an issue that has shown itself of major concern within other cities during times of crises. I have spoken with members of the Cascadia Subduction Zone preparedness team and they seem deeply concerned regarding our entire region's capacity to support our food needs during a natural disaster. Having small urban farms dotted throughout the metropolitan region is one of the most effective tools I can see. Their ability to distribute food within the city without the dependence of fuel that many outlying farms would require can only be seen as a plus. At least that is how I and nearly all members of the disaster preparedness and various sustainability committees view HB2723. It stands to become a mark of enlightened legislation in keeping with our region's reputation as a leader in environmental and economic issues. For this reason I support HB2723 and thank you, in advance, to your support for this bill.

Thanks you,
Harriet Fasenfest
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Portland, Or 97212