Dear Representative for House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

Please support the following bills and fund them for Small Farmers HB 3085 HB 3090 HB 3091

In this country, and in Oregon today, the statistics on presence and growth of small farmers has no accurate measurement. We don't know how many great and conscious people would begin farming if the start up cost was not so prohibitive. And we don't know how many farmers could grow to scale and supply food to a lot more people. But I think we can agree that if funding was more easily made available to small farmers, a lot more farmers and ranchers would fight for the resources to start and stay in business.

Small farmers, especially in rural areas, can and do help to reduce hunger and provide better nutrition by making good food more readily available. Though we don't have a humanitarian disaster on our hands due to hunger, we do know that millions of children are undernourished and have food instability – right here in Oregon! And hunger and malnutrition contributes significantly to poor health and chronic diseases, developmental delays and insufficient cognitive growth, and inability to succeed in life in the future while also increasing healthcare costs for the state of Oregon.

We need to increase our local and state resources in any way that we can now – and for our future. We need to assure clean water and food availability for all of us. What better way to do that, now and for our future, than to support small farmers who will become larger contributors to food availability and help to reduce hunger and malnutrition. It's good for the state, it's good for the people of Oregon.

Requirements for a tracking and accountability system for each of these bills should also be attached to the funding. We need to know who our farmers are, in what areas, what they grow, how they distribute food just as we need to know the status of hunger and malnutrition across the state.

Please support these bills.

Thank you.

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