

**From:** [Gwynne Mhuireach](#)  
**To:** [Exhibits HAGLU](#)  
**Subject:** letter of support for HB 3085, HB 3090 and HB 3091  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019 6:28:59 PM

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Dear House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

I write in support of HB 3085, HB 3090 and HB 3091.

I grew up on a family farm in Klamath Falls. My parents and grandparents have been farming in southern Oregon for over a century now. I moved away for college, but my heart has always remained tied to small farming as a sustainable way to feed our communities, steward the ecological health of the land, and increase our resilience capacity by keeping local products local.

I have recently begun to transition back into farming as my mainstay and I would like to emphasize the extraordinary challenges faced by beginning and small farms. Land and equipment are virtually out of reach without high-interest loans, and many lenders are unwilling to consider loaning to me because of my student debt. I have to hold another job in order to pay bills and get my farm off the ground, but it turns out to be a vicious cycle where I now don't have enough time to spend improving the infrastructure and getting farmwork done. The only reason I have been able to get where I am now with a small farm operation is that my mother is now aging and was willing to lease a small portion of property to me. For beginning farmers who lack such an opportunity, the barriers seem nearly insurmountable. Creating new affordable loan programs and incentives to assist small and beginning farmers would be a step in the right direction.

Please pass HB 3085, HB 3090 and HB 3091 to help Oregon's beginning small farmers!

Sincerely,

Gwynne Mhuireach  
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