

From: [Alice Morrison](#)
To: [Exhibits HAGLU](#)
Subject: Written Testimony from a Small Farmer for HB 3085 and 3091
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Alice Morrison
38220 Boscage Ln
Springfield, OR 97478
502-640-9256

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
RE: HB 3085 and 3091

Dear Committee Members:

I am a small farmer in Cedar Flat, OR, an unincorporated town outside Springfield in Lane County. After a few years of working on other people's farms, learning the local climate, what vegetables people like and how to grow them, and exploring new, sustainable, and small scale techniques, my partner and I finally had the opportunity to start our own place. We are proud to be farming for the first time this year on our own under the name White Rabbit Gardens. The only thing that would make this a prouder moment is if we owned the land we cultivate.

As young (late twenties) farmers here in Lane County there is no way we could afford to own our own land. We have some savings, but we have been working for low farm-worker wages to learn our trade so we are not wealthy people. Even though we both have college degrees, work other part time jobs to support our dream of farming and have good credit we can't get a loan to buy land for a farm from a traditional institution. And we can't get an FSA loan because we have been working for other people's farms (receiving w-2s) and don't have the prerequisite years of Schedule F tax forms they need to see to believe in our abilities.

This is where HB 3085 and 3091 could help us. Oregon needs help in transitioning its farm workers to farm owners. With the average age of the American farmer pushing 60, we should all be thinking about how we are going to help the next generation step up to fill those shoes in agriculture rich states like ours. A specific loan program (as outlined in 3085) for beginning farmers, that understands our position and can work with us to be successful would change my life. The uncertainty of farming on leased land makes us hesitant to invest in our business. We won't make 20 year investments like building a new pack shed or planting fruit trees, because in 5 years our lease will be up and we'll have to move on. The same thing for the limit on fees for Aggie Bonds (HB 3091). Any financial incentive will lessen my burden and help me put more into my business.

Please help small farmers like me continue to feed our communities and grow our businesses. Please support HB 3085 and 3091.

Thank you,

Alice Morrison