



Friends of Family Farmers ♦ PO Box 665 ♦ Waltherville, OR 97489

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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2612

February 2, 2021

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Policy Director at Friends of Family Famers, a farmer-led non-profit organization that has advocated on behalf of socially and environmentally responsible farmers and ranchers across Oregon for over 15 years.

Friends of Family Famers works to ensure a regenerative and equitable system of agriculture that includes resilient regional food systems where small and mid-size farms thrive.

Forty years ago, Oregon was home to more than 4,000 dairies, mostly small, family-owned businesses. [Now, just over 200 remain.](#) Oregon lost an average of 9 family dairies per month between 2002 and 2007.

Allowing the commercial production of raw butter will help increase revenue for Oregon's struggling dairy industry, allow small farmers to make a living, and help meet consumer demand for local food products.

Covid-19 highlighted weaknesses in the industrial food model, and communities experiencing supply chain disruptions sought out local food at unprecedented rates. Friends of Family Farmers believes now, more than ever, Oregon needs to re-regionalize the food system and rebuild rural economies by supporting small farmers. HB2612 is one way to hopefully allow more small dairy farmers to stay in business while feeding their communities nutrient-dense food.

We urge you to consider HB2612.

Sincerely,

*Amy M Wong*

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