



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

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April 5, 2021

### **Testimony Supporting HB 3322 House Committee on Housing**

Dear Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 3322, which would allow food production in planned communities, on behalf of [Friends of Family Farmers \(FOFF\)](http://www.FriendsofFamilyFarmers.org), a farmer-led non-profit that has advocated for family-scale farmers, and the eaters who support them, for over 15 years. Friends of Family Farmers works to build strong local and regional food systems and to ensure family-scale agriculture remains viable in our state today and into the future.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, industrial agriculture channels failed, and we collectively learned the importance of a resilient regional food system. In addition to meat processing bottlenecks and empty grocery store shelves, seed companies, including many in Oregon, experienced unprecedented demand leading to backlogs that continue this season.<sup>1</sup> This demand was driven by a deep desire to grow one's food, improve access to culturally-appropriate food, and increase self-sufficiency.

As Oregon recovers from the pandemic and the subsequent economic downturn, while also facing ongoing climate and other weather emergencies, it is time to prioritize resilient local food systems, which includes growing food at home.

We thank you for your consideration and urge your support of HB 3322

*Amy M Wong*

Amy Wong  
Policy Director  
Friends of Family Farmers

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/28/style/seed-panic-buying-coronavirus.html>