

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the committee:

My name is Temese Szalai.

I am currently the Board President of North Coast Food Web, a 501(c)3 non-profit based in Astoria, OR, whose mission is to cultivate a resilient and equitable food system by supporting producers and improving access to local food.

As a long time consumer of local, farm direct products, an avid supporter of family farms and now as an active Board member of an organization that works to support food producers and improve access to local food, I'm writing today in support of SB 507, which will provide much needed improvements and upgrades to Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law first enacted in 2011.

I'm excited that SB 507, with the forthcoming amendment, will:

- Include entities that assist small producers by aggregating, delivering, and assisting with the sale of FDML eligible products, into the FDML regulatory framework
- Improve consumer access to FDML products by allowing additional sales opportunities through consignment.

Our local food systems have increased demands that we must start to address. SB 507 will help Oregon farmers and producers continue to sell safe, fresh produce directly to their consumers in the modern era.

Oregonians are demanding more local, sustainable and fresh products accessible in their communities. With the boom in farmers markets over the last decade combined with the expansion of food hubs and food delivery systems, it's time to ensure Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law keeps pace.

The improvements in the legislation before you will help improve upon our robust local food system, expand producers' sales and income opportunities, and give everyone a clearer regulatory framework about what foods can and cannot be sold farm-direct.

Countless farmers and consumers benefit from this model and I fully support the continuation and modernization of this important process.

In sum, SB 507 will have a significant positive impact on efforts to cultivate a resilient and equitable food system.

For these reasons, I urge your support for SB 507.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Temese Szalai