

Submitter: Melanie Douville

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB507

Hello, I am a outdoor educator connected to the production of syrup in Oregon from native Bigleaf Maples. It will greatly benefit farmers, foresters, and other producers in Oregon if Bigleaf Maple syrup is added as a product in the Farm Direct bill.

Syrup made from the sap of Bigleaf Maple is an emerging product in Oregon that has the potential to make a lasting positive economic impact on small farmers in the state and the region. Western Oregon has a great abundance of Bigleaf Maple trees, and tapping them for sap is a sustainable use with little negative impact. In fact, tapping provides an economic incentive to conserve native maple trees in areas that do not interfere with conifer production.

Including Bigleaf Maple syrup in Farm Direct will greatly enhance the ability of farmers to produce maple syrup as crop and market it to consumers directly from their land. Syrup is a shelf-stable product with low food safety risks to consumers because of the high sugar content and low quantity of water. As Bigleaf Maple syrup production skills improve, some producers will be able to move beyond Farm Direct and build larger processing facilities licensed by the state that can supply retail markets.

Please take this opportunity to support an amazing new crop in Oregon!

Thank you for your consideration,
Melanie Douville