

Submitter: Susan Alexander

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB507

We are small woodland owner family in Clackamas County Oregon with many bigleaf maple trees interspersed with our softwoods. We are also a family of professional foresters. We've been tapping some of our maple trees and producing small amounts of syrup for three years. Its delicious, and we believe it is a product we could produce to supplement our income. Syrup made from the sap of bigleaf maple (and walnut trees) is an emerging industry in Oregon that has the potential to make a positive economic impact on small woodland owners and farmers in Oregon. Including bigleaf maple syrup in Farm Direct will greatly enhance the ability of woodland owners and farmers to begin producing maple and walnut syrup by providing a low-risk entry point for producing and marketing syrups on their farms directly to consumers at roadside stands and farmer's markets.

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 maple in areas that don't interfere with conifer production. As foresters, we've traditionally controlled bigleaf maple, but now we see it in a new light.

Syrup is a shelf-stable product with low food safety risks to consumers because of the high brix (sugar content) and low water activity (low amount of water).

As 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

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