

Submitter: Pamela Benson

On Behalf Of: HB 3124

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB3124

Chair Helm, Vice-chairs Hartman and Owens, and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Pam and I am a [Farmer market manager in Tigard. I am grateful for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3124 and especially on the importance of components 4-7 and 4-8. Our small market was able to donate \$16,682.00 in matching food stamps. During this time of high food costs,. This bill provides support for the people that need it most. Every dollar we receive goes to the community. Our market is run by volunteers and we received no compensation so we have no overhead.

Components 4-7 and 4-8 provide support to small farmers and the community food system in the face of the ongoing drought and related natural disasters. It is so important that the state prioritizes these community assets when thinking about drought resilience and planning for Oregon's changing water reality. Component 4-7 creates a separate fund for small farmers to gain drought resilience through the Oregon Community Food Systems Network. The OCFSN has proven its ability to run this kind of program and its members are trusted resources for new, small, and diverse farmers that do not traditionally take advantage of ODA programs.

Component 4-8 creates resilience for our community food system sales outlets which will allow