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April 14, 2023

Re Support of SB 507

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, and members of the committee,

I'm writing today in support of SB 507A. IT will provide much needed improvements and upgrades to Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law first enacted in 2011.

SB 507A will:

- Include entities that assist small producers by aggregating, delivering, and assisting with the sale of FDML eligible products, into the FDML regulatory framework.
- Add steam canning and freeze drying to eligible processes that can be used for the production of preserves, jams, and canned fruit and vegetables.
- Improve consumer access to FDML products by allowing additional sales opportunities through consignment.
- Include certain herbal tea blends, juices, and maple syrup as eligible products under OR's FDML.

As a Naturopathic Dr involved in primary care, it is critical that we reestablish a healthy relationship with our food sources and food choices. The problem in the US is not a problem of calory consumption, but of malnourishment. I do not need to detail the skyrocketing problem with diabetes, cardiovascular disease and the musculoskeletal problems of obesity.

Less often spoken about is the impact of a healthy diverse food supply on behavioral health. My specialty is behavioral health and the crossover with neuroinflammatory conditions, chronic infections and exposure to chemicals. Rates of ADHD, autism and autoimmune conditions (including cancer) are soaring. The decrease in life expectancy (already before COVID) is in part driven by the increase in deaths of young people by suicide or accidental deaths, including overdoses.

The deficiency of vitamins and minerals (deficiencies I test and treat for), flavonoids, antioxidants, probiotics, enzymes and other vital nutrients are in part responsible for this health crisis. Ensuring access to a diversified food supply, normalizing a diversified diet and ensuring the viability of farming communities is vital.

The challenges created by climate change places our entire food supply at risk - and makes running a farm extremely difficult, just witness the freeze of late April 2022!
We have already been witnessing how changing weather patterns are a serious threat for the survival and success of smaller farmers, and those who produce a diversified set of agricultural goods.

It is also smaller farms that hold the key to maintaining biodiversity and a healthy environment while feeding all of us (thank you farmers).

With opportunities to increase revenue through additional safe, value-added products (like canned asparagus, dried persimmon or tomato, soups/sauces) and the opportunity to expand marketing and delivery avenues, SB 507A will help both Oregon's small producers and the customers they serve.

Oregonians are demanding more local, sustainable and fresh products accessible in their communities. With the boom in farmers markets over the last decade, and 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.

I urge your support for SB 507A. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Nathalie Paravicini, ND