



April 21, 2023

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

My name is Amy Wong and I am the Board Chair of the Oregon Organic Coalition (OOC), based in Lyons, Oregon. The OOC was founded by organic trade leaders in 2004 to build unified support for organic advocacy. The OOC has brought together organic farmers, businesses, affiliated organizations, and other stakeholders, to provide direction and advocacy, and to support efforts that promote and grow organic trade and farming practices in Oregon and beyond.

I'm writing today in support of SB 507A, which will provide much needed improvements and upgrades to Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law (FDML), which was 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.

There are significant costs to be certified organic, and many organic farmers rely on the premium value-added products yield. Expanding the Farm Direct Marketing Law will make it easier to grow these products and improve farms' bottom lines.

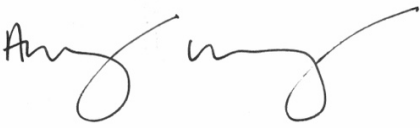
Oregonians are demanding more local, sustainable and fresh products accessible in their communities. With the boom in farmers markets over the last decade, and the expansion of food hubs and food delivery systems, many including organic products, it's time to ensure Oregon's Farm Direct Marketing Law 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 the OOC supports the continuation and modernization of this important process.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and the last name "Wong" clearly distinguishable.

Amy Wong

Board Chair - Oregon Organic Coalition