



Main Office • 133 SW 2nd Ave, Ste 201 • Portland, OR 97204
Willamette Valley Office • 454 Willamette St, Ste 213 • Eugene, OR 97401
Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528

April 5, 2021

Rep. Julie Fahey, Chair
Committee Members
House Committee on Housing
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3322

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3322. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

HB 3322 would allow homeowners and renters (with the approval of the homeowner) to grow and produce food on their lot, to the extent it is allowed under the relevant city or county laws, even if it is prohibited or restricted by the governing documents of a homeowners' association. This bill would affect planned communities and some subdivisions, which are primarily inside cities and towns.

1000 Friends supports this common sense statute. Raising vegetables, growing fruit trees, raising chickens, and similar activities on a residential lot should be encouraged, not prohibited – it enables Oregonians to have access to inexpensive, healthy food. It connects people, and especially children, to how food is grown. Recent immigrants often grow familiar produce that they cannot find in local stores. Yet, we have heard of residents being prohibited from, for example, growing tomatoes and other vegetables in the front of their homes.

We encourage support for HB 3322, and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



To: House Committee on Housing
From: Chris Baker, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
RE: Testimony in support of HB 3322
Date: April 6, 2021

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs, and members of the committee,

My name is Chris Baker, I provide administrative support to the state's Hunger Task Force, and I am the Legislative Strategist at Hunger-Free Oregon. This testimony is in support of HB 3322.

We support policies that ensure Oregonians have equitable access to the resources and opportunities needed in order to afford life's essentials. We focus on ensuring that nutrition support programs are adequate, effective and equitable when we need them, and we believe people most impacted by hunger are leaders in designing and enacting solutions.

The experience of hunger, though always urgent, has become more widespread than ever before. An estimated 1 million Oregonians can't afford the food we need, twice as many of us as before the pandemic. The rate of hunger is twice as high for people who face systemic inequity, particularly Black, Indigenous and Latinx Oregonians.

If passed, HB 3322 would allow the production of food in planned communities by lot owners and their tenants. As we take unprecedented measures to protect our communities, our elders, and our neighbors, this legislative session should consider all possible strategies to ensure Oregonians have access to nutritious food during this crisis.

We see HB 3322 as a strategy for reducing food insecurity. Home grown food reduces food cost, which is especially important for families who are trying to make ends meet. Participants of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (also known as SNAP/food stamps) can use their Oregon Trail Card to purchase edible plants, veggie starts and seeds¹. As an added benefit, SNAP participants who shop at farmers markets can stretch their benefit dollars even further by participating in the Double Up Food Bucks program at participating farmers markets. Double Up Food Bucks will match up to \$10 a day on any SNAP-eligible purchase (this includes edible plant starts)².

¹ Salzman, N. (2017, February 21). Using snap benefits to grow your own food. Retrieved April 05, 2021, from <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2011/07/06/using-snap-benefits-grow-your-own-food>

² How Double Up Food Bucks Works at Farmers Markets. (n.d.). Retrieved April 05, 2021, from <https://doubleuporegon.org/markets/>



For every \$1 dollar spent on seeds and plant starts, home gardeners can grow an average of \$25 worth of produce. Growing food from seeds and plants makes SNAP benefits last longer, allowing recipients to double the value of their benefits over time. Supplementing SNAP with homegrown food makes it possible for families to buy food products that they wouldn't normally be able to afford³.

In 2018, in preparation for the [2019-2022 Plan to End Hunger report](#)⁴, the Oregon Hunger Task Force administered a statewide "Plan to End Hunger" survey, where we received responses from more than 1,000 Oregonians. Access to residential food farming was listed among the *top ten* solutions to food insecurity by residents all across the state.

Everyone has the right to be free from hunger. HB 3322 is a clear and effective policy to build food security, with no cost to the state. It will help ensure equitable access to the freedom of growing nourishing food, no matter which neighborhood we live in. Please pass HB 3322.

³ Salzman, N. (2017, February 21). Using snap benefits to grow your own food. Retrieved April 05, 2021, from <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2011/07/06/using-snap-benefits-grow-your-own-food>

⁴ Killeen, A., O'Donnell-King, E., & Baker, C. (n.d.). *The Oregon Hunger Task Force 2019-2022 Plan to End Hunger* (Issue brief).

doi:<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/587bc89edb29d69a1a2839f2/t/5cfb01e440541300017f4889/1559953905466/2019PlantoEndHunger.pdf>



Friends of Family Farmers ♦ PO Box 665 Walternille, OR 97489

503-581-7124 ♦ www.FriendsofFamilyFarmers.org

April 5, 2021

Testimony Supporting HB 3322 House Committee on Housing

Dear Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 3322, which would allow food production in planned communities, on behalf of [Friends of Family Farmers \(FoFF\)](#), a farmer-led non-profit that has advocated for family-scale farmers, and the eaters who support them, for over 15 years. Friends of Family Farmers works to build strong local and regional food systems and to ensure family-scale agriculture remains viable in our state today and into the future.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, industrial agriculture channels failed, and we collectively learned the importance of a resilient regional food system. In addition to meat processing bottlenecks and empty grocery store shelves, seed companies, including many in Oregon, experienced unprecedented demand leading to backlogs that continue this season.¹ This demand was driven by a deep desire to grow one's food, improve access to culturally-appropriate food, and increase self-sufficiency.

As Oregon recovers from the pandemic and the subsequent economic downtown, while also facing ongoing climate and other weather emergencies, it is time to prioritize resilient local food systems, which includes growing food at home.

We thank you for your consideration and urge your support of HB 3322

Amy M Wong

Amy Wong
Policy Director
Friends of Family Farmers

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/28/style/seed-panic-buying-coronavirus.html>



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May 7, 2021

Rep. Julie Fahey, Chair Committee Members
House Committee on Housing State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3322A – food production in planned communities

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3322A. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

HB 3322A would allow homeowners and renters (with the approval of the homeowner) to grow and produce food on their lot, to the extent it is allowed under the relevant city or county laws, even if it is prohibited or restricted by the governing documents of a homeowners' association. This bill would affect planned communities and some subdivisions, which are primarily inside cities and towns.

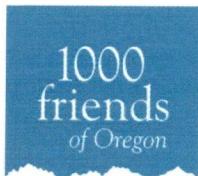
1000 Friends supports this common sense statute. Raising vegetables, growing fruit trees, raising chickens and honeybees, and other similar activities one's residential lot should be encouraged, not prohibited. It enables Oregonians to have access to inexpensive, healthy food and connects people, and especially children, to how food is grown. Many, including Immigrants, grow familiar produce, herbs, spices that they cannot find in local stores. Yet, we have heard of residents being prohibited from, for example, growing tomatoes and other vegetables in the front of their homes. Oregon has some of the best soils and climate in the world for growing food, and we should be encouraging, not prohibiting, it.

We encourage support for HB 3322A, and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mary" and "Kyle" connected at the top, and "McCurdy" written below them.

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director



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May 7, 2021

Sen Kayse Jama, Chair
Committee Members
Senate Committee on Housing & Development
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3322A – food production in planned communities

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3322A. 1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mary" and "Kyle" connected at the top, and "McCurdy" written below them.

Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director

I am from Talent, a small town near Ashland and Medford that was recently devastated by the Almeda Wildfire. Gardening is a common hobby here, as is hen-keeping and beekeeping, and I see no reason why people should be prevented from organizing with their neighbors to create a community garden, especially during these hard times where access to food is harder than ever. In 2019, ACCESS provided food assistance to as many as 1 in 4 people Jackson County, and since the pandemic and wildfires, there is no reason to assume that number has gone anywhere but up - why, knowing this, should we make it harder for people to feed themselves? I garden myself, and I also used to volunteer with my local high school's gardening club, and I can tell you that there are a lot of young people, and presumably older folks as well, who are very interested in growing their own food but are unable to because they rent from landlords with restrictive policies on these activities. There is no good reason to restrict the right of people to live in a self-sustaining way and help their neighbors while doing so! Broadening this bill will help feed people, cultivate useful skills, and strengthen communities, which is in everyone's interest.

PUBLIC RECORD: This form, your verbal testimony, and materials you distribute will be posted on the Internet and accessible to the public.

WITNESS REGISTRATION

Committee Name: House Committee on Housing

Public Hearing on: HB 3322

Date: 04.05.2021

Please register if you wish to testify on the above-named measure/issue.

How do you want to be addressed:	Name	Organization or County of Residence	Position on Measure (FOR/AGAINST/NEUTRAL)
Mr	Cedric Hayden	State Legislator	FOR
Mr	Ben West	Wilsonville	FOR
Ms	Rachelle Dixon	Advancing Collective Equity	FOR
Ms	Angelita Sanchez	Sweet Home	
Ms	Chris Baker	Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon	FOR
Mr	Rich Vial	Condominium Working Group	AGAINST