

SUPPORT HB535

Honorable Chair Bagnall and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 535**, a bill that would bring meaningful benefits to family farmers, small independent farms, and our local communities. Passage of HB 535 would enable family farmers to make a better living by increasing the allowable sales of food produced on the farm. This change would provide much-needed flexibility, allowing these hardworking producers to expand their operations without unnecessary barriers and better support their families through their agricultural efforts.

Similarly, HB 535 would enable small, independent farms to make a better living by increasing the products they can sell that consumers want. By easing restrictions on direct sales and offerings, farmers could respond more effectively to market demand for fresh, local, and diverse food items, helping sustain viable small-scale agriculture in our state.

Furthermore, HB 535 would keep more of the food dollar in local communities and boost the local economy with the increase in locally-produced foods that consumers can obtain. Strengthening on-farm and direct-to-consumer sales circulates money within our neighborhoods, supports rural vitality, and gives residents greater access to wholesome, homegrown products.

For these reasons, I urge you to support and pass HB 535. It represents a practical step toward a stronger, more resilient agricultural future for family and small farms. Thank you for your consideration and dedication to serving our state's farmers and communities. Please vote favorably.

Mark Meyerovich
District 15