

Supporting the Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act of the 2012 Farm Bill

Whereas, demand for access to locally produced foods has grown at least 40 percent between 2008 and 2012, according to US Department of Agriculture (USDA); and

Whereas, the ODA 2013 State of the Agriculture Industry Report cites “Flourishing food processing and distribution facilities mean more outlets for Oregon’s producers, more jobs in Oregon, and more dollars in our economy;” and

Whereas, the Agricultural Reclamation Act (by Oregon farm advocacy organization Friends of Family Farmers) cites the need for public investment, grants or incentives in order to strengthen the economic viability of Oregon farmers and ranchers, enhance local employment opportunities and increase local food security; and

Whereas, the University of Oregon’s 2010 Lane County Food Market Analysis identifies significant gaps in local food storage, processing, and distribution infrastructure which, when remedied, will help local markets capture more of the county’s total \$1.1 billion in annual food purchases; and

Whereas, the federal **Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act** is a comprehensive package of reforms that would expand opportunities for local and regional farmers, rebuild the farm infrastructure in rural communities and help farmers break down barriers to new markets,

Whereas, the **Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act** comprises roughly 0.1% of the total Farm Bill and would cost taxpayers no additional money, therefore be it

Resolved, Oregon State Grange lobbies Oregon’s federal legislators to co-sponsor the federal Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act and to support its provisions in the federal farm bill; and be it further

Resolved, that the National Grange lobbies congressional representatives to co-sponsor the federal Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act and to include its provisions in the federal farm bill.

Spencer Creek Grange
spencercreekgrange.org
Eugene, OR