

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Governor Kate Brown  
Senator Tim Knopp  
Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson  
Representative Dennis Linthicum

Senator Lynn Findley  
Representative Daniel Bonham  
Representative Jason Kropf  
Representative Jack Zika

The High Desert Food & Farm Alliance is a Central Oregon based non-profit working to build a healthy and thriving food and farm network through education, collaboration, and inclusivity. We work with 65+ small to mid-sized farmers and ranchers throughout Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties.

On behalf of our local farm and ranch partners, as well as the additional undersigning organizations, businesses, and community members, we write in **support of allocating a portion of the \$150,000,000 set aside in Section 167 of HB 5006 for natural disaster relief** to help small-scale agricultural producers survive the current extreme and exceptional drought plaguing the Central Oregon region.

Many of our farm and ranch partners **do not qualify for existing federal assistance**, and are caught without support to help persevere through the current situation. Beginning farmers and ranchers are still creating viable businesses and do not necessarily have the financial means to weather multiple years of shocks. Additionally, underrepresented farmers and ranchers, including people who are Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color, are historically and currently at a disadvantage for accessing federal funds. Between COVID, hail, wildfires, and especially drought, our farm and ranch partners have consistently pivoted and adapted to the best of their ability. This year, however, water supplies have been cut off earlier than ever - some by the end of July - leaving producers without water for crops and pasture. We are working hard to secure funding to help farmers and ranchers make critical on-farm infrastructure changes to conserve water and maximize production, but these changes will not arrive in time to save this year's crops and livestock. **Central Oregon farmers and ranchers need support from the State of Oregon.**

We appreciate your consideration of this request, and thank you for supporting the farmers and ranchers that feed our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katrina Van Dis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katrina Van Dis,

Executive Director

High Desert Food & Farm Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Nichols". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Annie Nichols,

Agricultural Support Manager

High Desert Food & Farm Alliance

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**Undersigned Entities**

Linda Anspach  
DD Ranch

Yvonne Babb

Jeff Baker

Cammy Barr  
Purple Fox Farm

Gwen Bartonek  
Herb N Vine

Gia Matzinger  
Deschutes Canyon Garlic

Kay Batten-Merwin

Darcy Bedortha

Mary Beyer  
Wine Down Ranch

Dani Brenneman

Cierra Buer  
Lark Ranch Rescue and Rehabilitation

Amber Caisse

Mariela Castaneda

John Charles  
Charles Foods LLC

Nancy Cole

Alexandra Culkeen  
Jackson's Corner

Natalie Danielson  
Friends of Family Farmers

Dan Ellingson

Isabelle Eyman  
Busy Izzy Foods

Jeffery Fox  
SunLife Farm and Ranch

Deedee Garnett

Kimberly Gerig

Leslie Graff

James Gray  
Central Oregon Locavore

Caroline Hager  
Sisters Farmers Market

Monica Hescheles

Barbara Hess

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Alison Holland  
Rainshadow Organics

Holly Hutton  
Herbal Goddess Medicinals

Chelsea Imdieke  
Rock Creek Romneys

CJ Johnson  
In Cahoots Heirloom Apple  
Orchard Collaborative

Hannah Joseph

Ashley Joyce  
Bend Urban Gardens  
LLC

John Junkin

Abby Kellner-Rode  
Boundless Farmstead

Erin Kilcullen  
Deschutes Soil and Water  
Conservation District

Margaret Kirby

Michael Kirsch  
Madras Farms Co.

Lacey Kloster  
Central Oregon Locavore

Tamatha Latchford

Natalie Leder

Emma Leyden  
Feast Food Company

Emilie Marlinghaus

Gia Matzinger  
Deschutes Canyon Garlic

Miguel Mendoza  
Agricultural Connections

Tessa I Miles  
Jackson's Corner

Evan Moran  
Pioneer Ranch

Dawn Mountz

Jenna Pike  
Splitting Aces Livestock

Remington Pike  
Splitting Aces Livestock

Lauren Rasmussen  
Fibonacci Farm

Justin Rodgers  
Big Summit Beef Co.

Lori Schar

Courtney Schuur  
North 44 Farm

Ronda Sneva  
Nestled Inn

Ann Snyder

Kit Stafford  
ARTS Discovery

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Mekenzie Stearns

Katia Steckly  
Double F Ranch Meat CSA

Ally Steinmetz  
Middle Deschutes  
Watershed Council

Aaron Stubbs  
Fibonacci Farm

Karan E Swaner  
Cascade Mountain Pastures

Kacey Taylor

Audrey Tehan  
Seed to Table Oregon

Nicolle Timm-Branch  
Central Oregon Locavore Non-Profit

Garth Tosello  
Suttle Tea

Parker D Vaughan  
Jackson's Corner

Lea White

Kathy Widmer

Jimmy Wilkie  
Broadus Bees

Fran Willis  
Seed To Table Oregon

Abigail Wright  
Moonlight Ranch LLC

Tyler Zajac  
Zajac Farms