

Honorable Members of the Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture,

My following comments are for the “Written testimony for the Hearing on Economic Impacts of Production, Processing and Marketing Organic Agriculture Products.” As a Certified Organic grower since 1989 my Kyle, Texas farm has been featured in many local newspapers, TV segments and I have been very active in promoting organic agriculture through gardening clubs as a speaker,

Through all of these avenues of media the Central Texas region is well versed in Organic Farming. I raise vegetables, peaches, pears and pecans on my 5 acre farm. All of my crops are now sold through my CSA network of families only. For nearly 16 years I sold only at the local farmers markets with travel being round trip of less than 35 miles. They worked great then with recent urban sprawl threatening my farm I have now gone with only city residents of Kyle as my CSA customers.

With rampant urban sprawl and a comment by the president of Kyle’s Chamber of Commerce who said, “the best thing for area farmers to do is sell their land and move to west Texas to continue their lifestyle.” Made me realize that small farmers are being forced out of what was rural areas and city governments want more tax land by virtue of new houses. So with no farmland available since speculative developers have bought all farmland very few new farmers will ever get into farming.

We need land protection for the small scale farmers (governments studies show farmland size is going down in size) and grant money for creative and collaborative farming with the local Certified Organic grower. As a recipient of taking part in a SSAWG grant I was helped by promoting selling of my produce through the internet. Now all of my CSA customers are online and almost all communication is done that way. Thanks!

Sincerely

Tim P. Miller

Millberg Farm Certified Organic