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**SENATE BILL 5973**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2001 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Jacobsen and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/12/2001. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & International Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to the small farm marketing assistance conference;  
2 creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Small farms are an important part of our public economy,  
6 quality of life, health, history, and appropriate land stewardship;

7 (2) The state would greatly benefit from a focused effort to  
8 increase the economic viability and profitability of small farms  
9 through increasing their ability to market their products;

10 (3) Marketing strategies are often difficult for small farmers to  
11 undertake because of market barriers and the difficulty of obtaining  
12 information related to marketing; and

13 (4) A marketing assistance conference for small farms could provide  
14 the needed information, technical assistance, and barrier clearing work  
15 that is key to increasing marketing of farm products.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of agriculture shall  
17 convene a conference to improve domestic and international marketing  
18 opportunities for small farms. To assist in planning the conference,

1 the department of agriculture must consult with interested  
2 associations, companies, individuals, farmers' markets, local produce  
3 buyers, various advisory groups including the organic advisory board,  
4 and the Washington state cooperative extension. In addition, the  
5 department of agriculture must consult with the department of  
6 community, trade, and economic development to assess what international  
7 business services would be useful to further marketing efforts by small  
8 farmers abroad.

9 (2) The conference must be organized to provide marketing ideas and  
10 concepts that could be utilized by small farmers, alone or in concert  
11 with other small farmers, that would enhance the economic viability of  
12 small farmers whether through direct sales to consumers or other  
13 marketing techniques.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of forty-nine thousand dollars, or  
15 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal  
16 year ending June 30, 2002, from the general fund to the department of  
17 agriculture for the purposes of this act.

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