

**Comments before the Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development
Senate Bill 816 - Agricultural Experiment Station Fermentation Sciences and Value Added
Program at Oregon State University**

Hayden Bush, Oregon State Student and Dairy Farmer

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Chair Roblan and members of the Committee, I am Hayden Bush, a student at Oregon State University studying Agricultural Sciences and I am a dairy farmer in Tillamook. I am pleased to offer support for Senate Bill 816.

Seventy years ago my family traveled from California to Oregon because this was the 'Promised Land' for dairy farming. My grandparents were in search of better ways to utilize their milk to make quality dairy products. And they wanted a better life for their family.

My dream is to stay here in Oregon and work in agriculture. I have grown up on my family's dairy. I know the ups and downs of a family owned business. At this point in my college career I am having to decide whether to bite the bullet and figure out how to stay and work on the family farm or to follow a career in the dairy industry which means that I would likely have to follow a career path that led out of the state of Oregon. I see SB 816 as a way to have BOTH. I could stay and work on the family dairy AND work in the dairy/fermentation industry here in Oregon. This could secure my future in Oregon agriculture. Which is why I urge your support of SB 816.

SB 816 would provide avenues for research that could potential stabilize and grow the dairy economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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