



OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

6975 SW Sandburg Street, Suite 250 Tigard, Oregon 97223
Ph: 503-641-0990 Fax: 503-641-0959 oba@oba-online.org www.oba-online.org

Co-Chair Read and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marty Myers, General Manager of Threemile Canyon Farms located in Boardman, Oregon. I am pleased to testify in support of HB 2800.

Today, nearly 5,000 Oregon companies export their products and services abroad and one-quarter of Oregon's manufacturing jobs are export-dependent. International trade has been the cornerstone of Oregon's economy, and today products from all corners of the state are part of the global marketplace.

Forest products from southern Oregon are sold in Australia; grass seed and onions go to Chile and Vietnam; apples, wheat, crab, hazelnuts are all bought and sold in markets all over the world. Almost a billion dollars in Oregon products go to South Korea each year and over \$3 billion dollars of exports to China. Companies like TriQuint and Intel are exporting microprocessors and other advanced technology to Malaysia and China with Intel providing \$17 billion in economic investment to Oregon.

The Portland/Vancouver area exports one-fifth of its economic output, ranking second in the U.S. Oregon's businesses export \$17.7 billion in goods annually. Those dollars are re-circulated through local businesses and through tax revenues that support public services. Nearly one quarter (23%) of all manufacturing workers in Oregon depend on exports for their jobs--in 2008, 700,000 Oregonians held export-dependent jobs, and export-related activity generated \$29 billion in personal income for Oregonians.

Since 2009, Oregon's state-wide export value has grown 23%. And for every billion dollars in additional goods sold overseas, 5,400 new jobs are created here in Oregon. One in five jobs is trade related and more than half a million Oregon jobs are dependent upon transportation. Investments in transportation provide both short and long term benefits to the economy.

Threemile Canyon Farms produces potato, dairy, beef, grains and vegetable products that are exported through the Ports of Portland and Vancouver. We farm approximately 41,000 irrigated acres and milk approximately 32,000 cows in the Columbia Basin. The Columbia Basin exports 60-70% of its potato production annually. Threemile is currently building a whey and lactose facility in partnership with Tillamook Cheese that will export most of its products overseas. We currently export 100% of our potato production from our Calbee North America plant in Boardman to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China. That same plant is nearly completed with an expansion that will produce potato snack foods to be distributed domestically.

As a farmer I know that our business depends on a lot of different things, including smart public investments in infrastructure hundreds of miles away from the front gate of our farm. And as a fifth generation Oregonian, I know that our future prosperity as a state depends on building bridges between farmers in eastern Oregon and ports in Portland... No investment is more important to our common success than the I 5 replacement bridge, so I respectfully urge your passage of HB 2800

Marty Myers
Threemile Canyon Farms