



THREEMILE CANYON FARMS, LLC

HB 2449 TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
REP. JESSICA VEGA PEDERSON, CHAIR

March 5, 2015

Presented By
Marty Myers, General Manager
Threemile Canyon Farms

Chair Vega Pederson and members of the Committee, my name is Marty Myers and I am the General Manager of Threemile Canyon Farms. I am here today to encourage the Committee on Energy and Environment to approve HB 2449 and its proposed amendment HB 2449-1, 2 and 3. I participated in the Oregon Dairy Air Quality Task Force and one of the recommended Best Management Practices for the industry was the development of anaerobic digesters on dairy operations. This bill encourages this type of investment in dairy operations.

The bill itself supports important public policy objectives regarding environmental and economic benefits to rural communities. The environmental benefits include reduction of greenhouse gases, improving clean air, reduction of odors and protecting clean water. The economic benefits include supporting the dairy industry and Oregon Brands, such as Tillamook, and providing a solid platform for rural jobs and economic development. The artisan cheese businesses in Oregon are developing much like the wine industry began developing 30 years ago. These are small businesses in rural Oregon that depend on a reliable and growing milk supply. This bill will encourage a clean industry with new jobs to develop alongside this burgeoning industry.

This bill preserves a stable investment framework for a program that is working. Since inception of this program, anaerobic digesters have been developed to capture the manure from approximately 35% of the dairy cows in Oregon. The bill keeps a stable and predictable funding structure that ramps down over the period of the program extension: \$5 per wet ton through 2017 and then \$3.50 per wet ton for the extension period through 2021.

The bill also creates a pilot project with side-boards for DOE selection and administration. We support the program that is designed to focus on woody biomass and specialty food waste feed stocks, and the amendments appropriately includes criteria that would make methane digesters eligible for the program.

The Biomass Tax Credit has been a program that works to achieve important public policy goals, and is an important piece of the financing tools that make methane digesters viable projects. The program supports and enhances the economic strength of rural communities. We strongly support the program's goals of a healthy forest initiative and we are happy to work with OFIC and other members of the forest industry to refine this program to ensure it's targeted benefits for the woody biomass industry as well as methane digesters that are proven effective tools in achieving the environmental and economic benefits so desirable for our state.

Thank you.