



April 16, 2015

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
SB 341: Relating to agri-tourism**

Clackamas County supports SB 341: The Board of County Commissioners supports SB 341, which would provide a base-level of liability protection for agri-tourism operators pertaining to inherent risks connected with the general public visiting farms and ranches, and participating in agri-tourism activities.

Agri-tourism is an important component of Clackamas County's tourism sector. Our area is attracting more and more visitors as increasing numbers of people desire to know where their food comes from and meet the people who grow it. Consequently, Clackamas County has been working with farmers and ranchers to meet this demand by creating authentic and meaningful agri-tourism experiences for visitors. In addition to being an important and growing tourism sector, agri-tourism is also helping to bridge the culture gap between our region's urban and rural communities.

An undesired consequence of inviting greater numbers of people onto working farms has been increased liability risk and liability insurance costs for agri-tourism providers who already operate on narrow margins. SB 341 would provide reasonable protections for farms and ranches against lawsuits stemming from the inherent risks associated with engaging in agri-tourism activities.

We urge a "yes" vote on SB 341.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.