

FROM THE DESK OF MIKE NEARMAN



Oregon's Agritourism Providers Request your SUPPORT of SB 341

SB 341 is a long-worked compromise to provide liability protection to agritourism businesses and promote Oregon agriculture. Modeled after a similar law in Virginia, SB 341 would provide liability protection to agritourism providers who post certain notices on their property, enabling agritourism providers to more readily obtain liability insurance for their activities and ensuring that agritourism is supported and encouraged in Oregon.

The risk of liability is a significant concern for farmers and others who operate agritourism businesses in Oregon. Landowners who open their property to the public face the risk that they could be considered liable if a visitor is injured while engaged in agritourism activities. SB 341 would provide liability protection for agritourism providers against certain claims when the agritourism provider posts clear notice at the property of risks inherent in engaging in the activity. Potential risks include, but are not limited to, uneven ground, farm equipment, and domestic animals. Under SB 341, liability protection would be afforded only to those activities that are authorized under the land use system.

SB 341 is a critical step for Oregon farmers who open their farms to the public for pumpkin patches, corn mazes, farm festivals, farm stays, u-pick berries, farm markets or other educational activities. Agritourism has become a big attraction for many Oregon families and visitors. SB 341 encourages the growth of this industry in Oregon by providing a safety net to farmers who open their property up to tourism. With this bill, Oregon would join 23 other states with limited liability laws for agritourism providers.

Agritourism is one of a diverse set of products provided by Oregon farmers—one that helps a farm or ranch remain viable in both good and bad years. By providing coverage for value-added enterprises on the farm, SB 341 allows farmers and their partners to continue to run their agritourism operations and gives visitors the opportunity to enjoy Oregon agriculture and associated tourism opportunities.

**SUPPORT Oregon's growing agritourism industry
by VOTING "YES" on SB 341**