



OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

February 22, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of our constituents in Tillamook County, we ask you to support Senate Bill 1517 as amended and move it to the Floor for consideration. SB 1517, as amended, creates a pilot program which authorizes Tillamook County to create a collaborative process to facilitate local input and involvement in wetlands restoration projects that are sited in the County.

The Bill contains three primary provisions:

- It gives Tillamook County the option for local approval of wetlands projects sited in exclusive farm use zones to ensure that the project will not adversely impact nearby prime agricultural operations.
- It allows Tillamook County to create a collaborative process that a project applicant can choose to use to achieve agreement regarding conditions necessary to protect neighboring agricultural operations.
- It allows Tillamook County to enter into a planning process involving a diverse group of stakeholders that will allow the County to more effectively plan priority areas for wetland restoration and priority areas where the maintenance of agricultural operations will be protected.

The pilot project sunsets in 10 years.

We ask you give this Pilot Project your support. Tillamook County wishes to work collaboratively with State agencies, local landowners, interest groups and others to encourage wetland restoration projects where appropriate and at the same encouraging the no net loss of prime farm land which is a backbone of our county.

Sincerely,

Senator Arnie Roblan
Senate District 5

Senator Betsy Johnson
Senate District 16