

From The Desk of Rep. Deborah Boone

Deborah Boone

YES on SB 1507A

*****Oregon's State-wide Dairy Farmers Association supports SB 1507A**

*****Threemile Canyon Farms of Morrow County supports SB 1507A**

*****Farm Power of Tillamook County supports SB 1507A**

*****Oregon Business Association supports SB 1507A**

SB 1507A will extend the tax credit for manure digesters in Oregon while reducing the amount of the credit.

Currently the biomass tax credit is scheduled to be up for sunset review in 2017; however, because it takes between a year and a half and two years to construct a new digester, it makes good business sense and good public policy to extend this predictable investment framework with a proven track record.

SB 1507A will send a clear signal that Oregon Public Policy encourages Oregon's Dairies to operate at a high standard of environmental protection, while generating a reliable source of renewable energy.

The bill will extend the tax credit for digesters through 2021, while reducing the rate from \$5 a wet ton of manure to \$3.50. The reduction begins in 2016, thereby saving the state money now, while providing certainty and continuing to grow a program that has proven to be successful.

The environmental benefits include the reduction of greenhouse gases (similar to removing 38,000 cars from Oregon roads) improving air quality, reduction of odors and protecting clean water. In addition, methane digesters currently convert methane to a reliable source of renewable energy – the manure from 38,000 cows creates enough energy to power 7,000 homes/year.

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.

ODFA is proud of its seven members (three in Tillamook, three in the Willamette Valley and one in Boardman) who have sited anaerobic digesters on their farms. Together, several of Oregon's best small dairies and one large-scale dairy have used advanced anaerobic digester technology to recover methane from over 35% of Oregon's dairy cows.

Extending the Biomass Tax Credit will ensure that Oregon technology and best management practices will continue to improve the environmental and economic future for Oregon.