



February 28, 2017

The Honorable Betsy Johnson and The Honorable Debby Boone
900 Court St. NE, S-209
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Johnson, and Representative Boone,

Agriculture is a critical part of Oregon's future. As a 100-year old agricultural cooperative, we have a strong interest in protecting the viability of our farms. Farmers simply cannot afford to lose tax special assessments that give families certainty from one generation to the next, which is why we request that you oppose HB 2589.

The dairy industry forms the backbone of the economy in Tillamook County, and it is essential that legislation supports the long-term viability of the dairy farms. Without the farm use special assessment, Oregon's land use system could be put jeopardy. Eliminating special assessments that reduce taxes for those who keep land in agricultural production puts the viability of family farms at risk. Because farmers are not allowed to parcel off the home and acre from farmland, the special assessment is actually the highest and best use of the land.

We hope you'll oppose HB 2589 and support the future of agriculture in Tillamook County.

Sincerely,

Patrick Criteser
President & CEO

Dairy done right.

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