

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Tillamook County Commissioner
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Oregon State Capitol
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
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SB 197

I am dismayed to hear that the Oregon Legislature is considering a bill to add regulations to Oregon's Dairy Farmers by way of directing the Environmental Quality Commission to write rules to regulate air emissions from dairy farms. As you may or may not be aware, Tillamook County has been the longstanding leader in providing residence to a good percentage of Oregon's dairy farms for generations. The success of our "iconic" cheese produced here in Tillamook and in Boardman is due to the ability of our producers to manage existing and ever changing regulations. That regulatory burden continues to grow as a result of fewer consumers having a direct connection to the family farm. Further regulations to these farmers will have a direct affect on the ability of the next generation of dairy farmers to acquire, operate and succeed as dairy farmers. That succession, or lack thereof, will have a direct affect to Tillamook's economy and our landscape. While nothing can be done to force the next generation to say yes to the profession of "dairy", we as a society and regulators should do everything we can to eliminate barriers to their entry as producers.

Oregon's dairy farmers are salt of the earth. There is no other industry that demands a 365 work schedule with around the clock attention. These farmers are my neighbors, my friends and my constituents. I will fight to protect and preserve them at every opportunity.

The future viability of the Dairy Industry in Tillamook County will depend on thoughtful, careful and judicious regulatory development and enforcement. Please reject SB 197 and any other bill that seeks to visit undo regulatory burden to Oregon's Dairy Farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Josi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Josi
Tillamook County Commissioner