WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MARK WUSTENBERG, VICE PRESIDENT, DAIRY SERVICES, AND SARAH BEAUBIEN, DIRECTOR, SUSTAINABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP ON BEHALF OF TILLAMOOK COUNTY CREAMERY ASSOCIATION

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 197

MARCH 9, 2017

Chair Dembrow and members of the Committee,

My name is Mark Wustenberg. I've worked my entire career in the dairy industry. First, I worked as a practicing veterinarian and more recently in various executive roles at the Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA). My experience spans local, domestic and international farm and processing aspects of the dairy business. Over the years, I've served in both formal and informal advisory roles for the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), including participation in the 2008 Oregon Dairy Air Quality Task Force. I currently serve on the ODA Food Safety Advisory Group.

My name is Sarah Beaubien. I've worked in sustainability of agricultural supply chains and manufacturing plants for the past ten years. Through those years, I've worked on numerous public-private partnerships to address environmental, economic and social issues on farms locally as well as internationally.

We are submitting this testimony today to ask that you please vote to oppose SB 197.

Together, the two of us are responsible for ensuring that our milk supply here at TCCA is among the safest, highest quality in the world and that the production practices used continue to optimize the environmental and social well-being of the communities in which we operate.

Tillamook County Creamery Association is a 108-year-old dairy cooperative, which is known for the quality of the products we produce and for our commitment to working collaboratively with a diverse set of stakeholders to solve complex problems. Our approach is based on best available facts and recognizes the need to focus limited resources on issues that are most impactful. An example of this is the Tillamook Estuary Program, which

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established the Tillamook Bay as a national estuary project more than 20 years ago. Over the years, TCCA has been an active participant along with various environmental groups and state agencies, resulting in significant improvements in environmental quality and salmon recovery in the Tillamook Bay watershed. Additionally, we've collaborated in the development of two biodigesters and facilitated streamside fencing projects for the past 20 years. Local water quality regulators are now focused on on-dairy entities as they pursue continued improvements.

SB197 asks that we implement suggestions set forth in the final report of the 2008 Oregon Dairy Air Quality Task Force. We believe that the following passage from the executive summary best sums up conclusions from the process:

> "By way of overview, the Task Force found that under certain circumstances, air emissions from dairy operations might become subject to regulation under the Clean Air Act. However, the current uncertainties in our quantitative knowledge of air emissions from dairies make the application of Clean Air Act requirements uncertain. There is a need to improve our understanding of emissions from dairies and improve our ability to quantify these emissions, especially if those estimates are to inform future regulatory decisions. While we build our knowledge and certainty of dairy emissions, there is a desire by the Task Force to reduce these air emissions to prevent future problems from arising."

Simply stated, the Task Force's conclusions were that while we need to continue to work to ensure that we do not have problems in the future, there did not seem to be pressing need for regulation based on current air quality impacts. Furthermore, given the complexities around measurement of impact, more work was needed before a reasonable regulatory approach could be developed, and this work has yet to be completed.

There is some suggestion that the ODA has not been diligent in following up on the recommendations made by the Task Force. We do not agree with this view. Since 2008, Oregon has faced difficult choices about where to direct limited funding and resources. Given the breadth of the ODA's responsibility, they opted to prioritize other things above a regulatory framework specific to a potential future issue with dairy air emissions.

In the meantime, in the dairy sector, we have continued to work proactively to ensure that we do not create significant air quality issues in the future. TCCA—along with Darigold, our sister cooperative in the region—is an active participant in efforts to reduce dairy's environmental footprint through participation in the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy and membership in focused consortiums such as Newtrient, which has a mission to optimize

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dairy manure. These efforts center around better measurement strategies for quantifying impacts, development of new technologies, and efforts to scale current technologies so that their adoption does not put smaller-sized operations at a disadvantage to larger-scale dairies, which have the economies of scale.

Our milk supply partners in the eastern part of Oregon are recognized both inside and outside the dairy sector for their aggressive adoption of strategies that minimize their environmental impacts and the closed-loop approach they take to managing their cropping and dairy enterprises. They lead the industry and are a model for how larger-scale dairy operations should be managed.

In conclusion, we believe that taking a regulatory approach in anticipation of potential future issues is not a wise use of resources, given what is already significant proactive commitment by the dairy sector. With any expectations for agriculture, we support voluntary efforts over regulatory ones; we advocate for a sound scientific approach to create credible targets and tracking; and we support farms of all sizes that are protective of our natural resources.

Please vote to oppose SB 197.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Wustenberg, DVM
VP Producer Relations

Sarah Beaubien
Director Sustanability and Corproate Stewardship

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