



# Threemile Canyon Farms, LLC

Columbia River Dairy, LLC Castle Rock Farming, LLC Sixmile Land and Cattle, LLC

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE IN OPPOSITON TO SB 785 – 1

**Submitted by Leonard Bergstein on Behalf of  
Threemile Canyon Farms**

**March 16, 2017**

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

My name is Len Bergstein. I am proud to represent Threemile Canyon Farms in joining those members of the agriculture community who oppose SB 785 and the – 1 amendment, for good reasons.

First, I wish to resubmit testimony provided by Jeff Wendler, D.V.M, NW Livestock Manager of Threemile Canyon Farms in 2015. Jeff's comments regarding then SB 920, are relevant to today's discussion about SB 785.

I am the Northwest Livestock Manager for Threemile Canyon Farms – a leading produce and dairy farm located near Boardman Oregon. I am a licensed veterinarian and currently serve on a national panel focusing on animal welfare. The proper care and treatment of our herd is my professional life's work and my passion.

At Threemile Canyon Farms, we milk approximately 30% of Oregon's dairy cows – and I am proud to say that under my care and the care of the 5 full-time Veterinarians, two consulting Veterinarians, and one full time PhD Nutritionist, our lactating herd has been antibiotic free for the past 4 years.

So, while I agree with and applaud this Committee's concern for animal welfare and the public issues raised by the misuse of certain drugs in the treatment of livestock, I am here today to testify in opposition to SB 920 because, by its terms, SB 920 will not insure any additional protection for animal welfare, the public health or consumers. SB 920 will create excess bureaucracy and a litigation machine that will be a detriment to Oregon farmers, cattle and consumers.

Let me repeat that I take the issues of animal welfare and public health very seriously – and Threemile Canyon Farms applies our values in a robust and intentional way to implement programs and protocols to protect our animals, the public and our customers. I have attached a copy of our Protocols for Antibiotic use to this testimony...but let me mention a few highlights:

1. We have an Animal Welfare Committee which meets monthly, made up of management and the union members of the United Farm Workers who work at our dairy operation.
2. We engage an independent consultant from Evergreen College as our Animal Welfare Advocate to represent our animals as we develop animal welfare protocols and training procedures...and incorporate emerging research into our operations
3. We retain an independent third party auditor, with national credentials – the company Validus – to quarterly visits and grade us on standards they have established for "best practices" in the nation.

Jeff Wendler's comments are true as they relate to SB 785 – 1. This committee has demonstrated a thorough concern for public health and you should demand that Oregon be a leader in animal welfare and public health issues. I am here expressing Threemile Canyon Farms' opinion that you don't need SB 785 to achieve that. We agree with others in the ag community that:

- SB 785 is the wrong approach to combat antibiotic resistance
- SB 785 duplicates federal efforts to reform antibiotic use on the farm

- SB 785 does not provide a clean set of objectives – triggering a costly regime of data collection without a blueprint for useful outcomes
- SB 785 will divert scarce resources from programs that work and in that sense, could risk real progress on animal health and welfare.

In summary, we respectfully ask you to vote “no” on SB 785 and the – 1 amendment.