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WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MARK WUSTENBERG, VICE PRESIDENT, PRODUCER
RELATIONS, ON BEHALF OF TILLAMOOK COUNTY CREAMERY ASSOCIATION
TO THE SENATE HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 785
MARCH 16, 2017

Chair Monnes Anderson 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), and I currently serve on the ODA Food Safety Advisory Group.

Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA) is committed to ensuring that its milk supply 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.

TCCA 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. I am submitting this testimony today to ask that you please vote to oppose SB 785.

Our concern with SB 785 is not with its intent. Antibiotic resistance is a serious and growing issue that impacts both human and animal health. It is vitally important that antibiotics are used judiciously, both to treat animals as well as humans so as to preserve their efficacy.

Several years ago, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)—together with drug manufacturers, veterinarians, feed processors and livestock producers—built a framework for managing the feeding of antibiotics to livestock. This was a voluntary effort by those involved and resulted in an FDA regulatory framework called the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). This framework was implemented January 1, 2017, and there is no additional value that SB 785 proposes. In fact, the VFD goes beyond what is outlined in SB 785 in a number of important ways. For example, the VFD specifically states that the extra-label use of included compounds is prohibited. Additionally, there are also extensive record keeping requirements not only for the

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livestock producer but also for the veterinarian and the feed processor. All are subject to audit by the FDA.

Given that the FDA and the livestock industry have already addressed this issue in a comprehensive way, it would seem that adding an additional layer of regulatory activity at the state level would not only be wasteful in its redundancy, but would serve no additional benefit in reducing the risk of developing antibiotic resistance.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you oppose SB 785.

Sincerely,

Mark Wustenberg, DVM
Vice President, Producer Relations

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