



Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
1320 Capitol Street NE, Suite 160
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 971-599-5269

Tammy Dennee, CMP, CAE – Legislative Director
Cell: 541-980-6887

SB 1507, HB 4001 TESTIMONY

SENATE ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SENATOR MICHAEL DEMBROW, CHAIR

HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
KEN HELM, CHAIR

February 7, 2018

Entered into the Record by
Tammy Dennee, Legislative Director
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association

As the Legislative Director for the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, I offer the following for the record on behalf of the 200+ dairy producers of Oregon. These multi generational farm families deliver the highest quality milk to the market everyday **under strict state and federal regulations**. The fluid milk they produce is processed into the myriad dairy foods we consumers enjoy in the form of ice cream, yogurt, cheese, and pasteurized milk.

In 2016, the fluid milk produced on Oregon's dairy farms resulted in an economic contribution of more than \$469 million dollars in "farm gate value" prior to processing. The number of Oregon Dairies is directly related to the ability of each farm to withstand the volatility in the price of milk against the cost of feed, labor, taxes, equipment and the ever changing regulatory burden from the state and federal levels. Today's market price for fluid milk is just under \$14.00 for 100 pounds of milk. The average cost to produce this quantity ranges between \$16.00 - \$18.00. Our Dairy Producers are losing money with EVERY milk shipment.

It is imperative any new regulations, like the proposed Cap and Invest protocols directed in SB 1507 and HB 4001, be carefully considered and thoroughly vetted to avoid harm to Oregon's Dairy Sector.

It is clear from the voluntarily adopted Best Management Practices across the State by our Dairy Producers, Oregon's rich diversity of small, medium and large dairies – are proud supporters of state policies which curb environmental polluting emissions, generally, and, specifically, greenhouse gas emissions. That's why you will find Oregon Dairy Farmers in the forefront of adopting voluntary best management practices and putting them to work every day in the care and feeding of our dairy herds and in the conservation of the precious air, water and land resources that support our herds. The relationship between the research from our Land Grant Universities and Best Management Practices is paramount.

Those of you who have visited Oregon's dairies can attest that Oregon Dairy Farmers know best how to utilize methane digesters and related technologies. Using these technologies, Oregon dairies of all sizes can help Oregon achieve its goals of reducing greenhouse gas emission. That said, there are many methods coming into the forefront to assist in methane management for fuel and crop nutrition.

There are some who want this legislature to create unnecessary divisions within our dairy community. That would both hurt the proposed policy objectives and erode progress dairies have made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Our members are using a spirit of innovation and new technologies to blend with traditional values of hard work and respect for the natural environment to achieve the common carbon reduction goals we share with all Oregonians. Regardless of those who try to divide us, we are in this together and we are in it for the long run.

The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association respectfully urges the Legislature reject the passage of substantive Legislation of this type in the Short Session.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.