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Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair  
Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court Street NE  
Room H-178  
Salem, OR 97301

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to describe my experiences working with the Oregon Department of Agriculture on water quality issues on my farm.

Agriculture is a vital part of the Oregon economy and essential to our local economy in the Klamath Basin. Oregon farmers and ranchers care deeply about their farms and ranches and the natural resources that support them. From my experience, ODA starts with these core beliefs and then moves out to solutions regarding natural resource concerns.

Over the course of the last few years I have worked with various ODA staff members to address water quality on my farm which may affect Upper Klamath Lake. From the beginning, ODA has approached the situation with the basic understanding that all farms are different and educated themselves on our particular system. Since then, ODA staff have proceeded with a solution based, collaborative attitude, which makes the process feel like a partnership.

For example, last spring ODA coordinated with myself, our farm manager, and DEQ staff on a weekly (some times daily) basis in order to achieve our agriculture needs while maintaining water quality. I deeply appreciate the amount of effort put in by all levels of ODA to work with us through that critical time in our operation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tricia M. Hill", is written over a horizontal line.

Tricia M. Hill  
Tally Ho Farms, Partner