



**Oregon Dairy Farmers Association**  
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HB 2579 TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE

REPRESENTATIVE BRIAN CLEM, CHAIR

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

Oregon's Dairy Farmer Association was established in 1892 and has been serving Oregon's dairy farmers since its inception. With just over 200 dairy farmers remaining in Oregon, opportunities to connect our producers to consumers is seen as a terrific relationship to benefit both the farmer and the children who enjoy the nutritious and delicious fluid milk and food items in their schools. Oregon's multi-generational organic and conventional Grade A 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 consumers enjoy in the form of ice cream, yogurt, cheese, and pasteurized milk.

In 2017, the fluid milk produced on Oregon's dairy farms resulted in an economic contribution of more than \$500 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 Class 3 fluid milk is just under \$14.00 for 100 pounds of milk. It is important to note, this low price has remained for the past four years. The average cost to produce 100 lbs of milk ranges between \$16.00 - \$18.00. The majority of Oregon's Dairy Producers are subsidizing milk shipments leaving their farms. Milk is unlike other commodities that can be harvested and stored on farm until the market signals to sell. It must be moved as produced and sent to the respective processor.

The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association is pleased to offer support for the passage of HB 2579. The passage of HB 2579 will assist in expanding market access and consumption by children of dairy products produced from Oregon's fluid milk through the Farm to School Program.