



TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILLS 103, 104, and 876  
SUBMITTED BY SARAH BEAUBIEN, SENIOR DIRECTOR, STEWARDSHIP,  
ON BEHALF OF TILLAMOOK COUNTY CREAMERY ASSOCIATION  
SENATE ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
March 21, 2019

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA) is a 110-year-old farmer-owned, farmer-led 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. For generations, our farmers have conserved air, land, and water—their livelihoods depend on it. We're dedicated to continually improving agricultural practices, leveraging everything from scientific and technological breakthroughs to intergenerational knowledge about the land. Our commitment to sustained natural resources extends from our farms to our facilities and throughout our supply chain. We work hard to be good neighbors!

Over the past year, our state has witnessed a successful shutdown of a dairy that was not acting as a good neighbor. There were signals that the dairy was not upholding its commitments to environmental integrity. Our state agencies, with assistance and complete support of TCCA, took action to wind down the operation. The current regulations served well and the agencies had the tools that they needed. With all of the headwinds facing farmers today—economic uncertainty, public perception, constant change—farming can be challenging. The last thing we want is for good actors to be more burdened because of one bad actor. In order to protect our state, we agree with the aspects of Senate Bill 876 that support a two-step permitting process and some type of cost coverage should a farm not clean the feeding operation site or adequately decommission its waste treatment works. We believe that there is additional work needed with definitions in the bill as well as key provisions in sections 3-7.

We thank Senator Dembrow for organizing a workgroup to try to come up with consensus legislation. However, more work is needed on SB 876. We look forward to a continued collaborative effort. We believe that a regulatory framework can be created that does not jeopardize or penalize legitimate dairy operators in Oregon. For Senate Bills 103 and 104, we believe they are untenable. Any bill that threatens the right to farm is a threat to the heritage of our state. A viable dairy industry is dependent on farms of all sizes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Beaubien