

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 876, 103, and 104**  
**SUBMITTED BY Tom Seals,**  
**A MEMBER OF THE TILLAMOOK COUNTY CREAMERY ASSOCIATION**  
**SENATE ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**March 21, 2019**

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

I am a proud member and Board Director of the Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA). My name is Tom Seals and I have a dairy farm in Beaver, OR. I farm with my wife, Jennie and my 15 year old son, Coltan, who is actively involved in Agriculture and is a freshman in High School. We milk registered Jersey cows twice a day, everyday. I'm a third generation dairy farmer that takes great pride and is very passionate in our environmental stewardship and animal welfare.

Our 110-year-old farmer-owned cooperative puts the decision-making power in the hands of farmers. Good stewardship is one of the key tenets of our cooperative governance. Stewardship is nothing new to us. In fact, the only way to stay in business for over one hundred years is to care for the air, land, and water that sustain us. The only way to provide the highest-quality milk is to care for our cows. By embracing continuous improvement in farming practices and manure management, farm risks are minimized, rural resilience is supported, and positive relationships with natural resource industries are developed.

Thriving farms are essential to our future. Not only for our company, but for our community and our food system. We are working to be more efficient, economically sound, and viable for generations. We are also committed to being good neighbors. Over the past year, our state has witnessed a successful shutdown of a dairy that was not acting as the best neighbor. There were signals that the dairy was not upholding its commitments to environmental integrity and TCCA and our state agencies took action to wind down the operation. Our regulations and agencies did what they were supposed to do: shutdown a bad actor. The last thing we want is for agriculture to be more burdened and suitable statute changed because of one bad actor.

For Senate Bill 876, we applaud Senator Dembrow's effort to work collaboratively with a cross-section of interests to draft the bill. We believe that there are parts of 876 that can add value to the CAFO process and are committed to continue to the workgroup process. However, for Senate Bills 103 and 104, we believe they are untenable. Any bill that threatens 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,

Tom Seals