

Bobbi Harrold Frost

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HB 3427 Testimony

To the Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Bobbi Harrold Frost. I am a 4th generation family farmer from Creswell, in Lane County. My family has been living and working on the same farm since 1946. Our farm has been producing fresh, local milk every single day for the last 70 years.

I am writing today to express my dissatisfaction with HB 3427, specifically the ambiguity within the -1 amendment. The Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) the amendment proposes would be a severe blow to my family farm and would very plausibly, be the end of our operation.

There are many small farms like mine around the state that would fall under the scope of this amendment. The cost of feeding and caring for cows, along with the costs associated with maintaining equipment and farming the acres necessary to feed our herd very easily puts us over the proposed threshold and subjects us to devastating taxation.

The dairy industry has been in the grip of catastrophically low milk prices for the last 4 years and the very last thing we need is to be broad-sided again with a substantial and unfair tax burden. Dairymen all over the state are losing money every single day and giving up their equity and financial security just to fight to stay in business.

I cannot understand how the legislature had the foresight to protect food processors from this bill but did not see fit to also protect the people that grow that food in the first place. Keeping food affordable for Oregon families is an absolute necessity, but subjecting farmers to this overwhelming tax burden would end up killing all the operations we rely on to produce that food in the first place.

I respectfully ask that you consider the hundreds of family owned farms, just like mine, that would suffer under HB 3427 and the -1 amendment. Dairy farming is a hard-enough profession, even without the state placing an enormous weight on our shoulders. Please consider the damage that this bill would inflict on farms just like mine, and exempt food producers from this dangerous legislation.