

Testimony for HB 3427

4-18-2018

Concern for HB 3427

I am writing this today to inform legislators the negative effects of this bill on Oregon agriculture. I am a first generation dairy farmer in Dayton, Oregon. We milk cows on multiple facilities and employ 45 full time men and women. As some of you may know we and many others in agriculture are "price takers" we are unable to put a price on the products we work very hard to produce. The milk we produce every day is perishable and has to go to market everyday no matter the price. The last several years have been record low milk prices, all farms are struggling to stay in business today, and many have gone out of business. This proposed Corporate Activity Tax would be detrimental to all of us. Just feeding our cows is 50-60% of our expenses. Over the last few years we have lost a million plus dollars because of low market prices. Farmers today are faced with more and more new regulations that cost more money to comply with affecting our bottom lines to stay in the business. We amongst many other farmers hire in contract labor in the crop growing seasons, labor rates for these workers have increased several dollars per hour in the last couple years, which is another big hit for farmers financially, but we cannot do it without them.

This bill will kill even more farmers in Oregon, the ones that produce the meals you eat every day. Please consider this when voting for this House Bill 3427.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Robert Kircher

Forest Glen Jerseys

Forest Glen Oaks

5801 SE Bansen Ln

Dayton, OR 97114