



**Oregon Dairy Farmers Association**  
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**Sb 1562 TESTIMONY**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT  
AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

**SENATOR CHUCK RILEY, CHAIR**

**February 12, 2020**

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

Chair Riley and Committee members, my name is Tammy Dennee and I am the Legislative Director for the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, I offer the following testimony on behalf of the 200+ dairy producers of Oregon. These multi-generational conventional and organic Grade A farm families are proud of the care they provide to their animals, are proud of the high-quality milk they produce every day, and our producers are proud of their stewardship of the environment.

**SB 1562 provides for Scientific Analysis of the Nitrates in the Ground Water**

**Management Area in Umatilla County** – The ODFA supports granting authority to Oregon Department of Agriculture to Gather and Review Data and Research Relevant to Nitrates in the Umatilla Basin – The ODFA supports the passage of this bill to direct the ODA to do the following:

- Gather and review existing data and research relevant to ground water nitrates and ground water connectivity in the Umatilla Basin;
- To recommend, to the extent practicable, a scientifically based rationale for removing the ground water management area designation in specific parts of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area;
- To create a long-term implementation plan for all areas of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area to improve ground water conditions to an extent that will allow removal of the ground water management area designation from all or part of the area.

The bill would authorize the ODA to appoint an interagency task force and an appropriation of \$250,00.

For too long, allegations have been allowed to be made about the nitrate levels in this particular portion of the State. It is past time for a full analysis of the scientific evidence.

The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association respectfully urges the Committee's passage of SB 1562.