

2/3/2021

To Chair Witt and members of the committee,

I am in support of this bill. Please note that raw butter is different from other dairy and has an excellent track record for food safety.

Passage of HB 2612 would better enable dairy farmers to make a living and could help stem the decline in the number of Oregon dairy farms. In 1992 Oregon had 1,900 farms with dairy cows, according to USDA data; the latest figures from the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association shows there are 194 dairy farms left in the state.

Consumer demand for locally produced foods like raw butter continues to grow. With the current ban on raw butter, Oregon residents travel to California to purchase raw butter, costing the dairy industry revenue. Passage of HB 2612 would keep more of the food dollar within the state.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Barry".

James Barry