



The Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
April 21, 2020

Chair Taylor, Chair Reardon and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Tillamook County Creamery Association to share our support for the proposed \$1 million in funding to address food insecurity, food access and support for BIPOC farmers in Oregon.

Tillamook Creamery is a 112-year-old farmer-owned, farmer-led cooperative, which is known for the quality of the products we produce and for our commitment to working collaboratively with a diverse set of stakeholders to solve complex problems. Tillamook is committed to building an inclusive culture in our workplace and this is the time to be vigilant about raising awareness around greater diversity in our own industry.

Access to agriculture is rife with obstacles for BIPOC farmers which is compounded by longstanding structural barriers. This grant program is a step toward providing the necessary supports for BIPOC communities through investments and infrastructure.

Tillamook Creamery is grateful for the collaboration with the Governor's office on this budget request and appreciates the work of the Governor's Racial Justice Council and ODA that made this funding possible. We are happy to support this investment and ask the committee to adopt budget request so that the state can greater support BIPOC farmers. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of family farmers members.