



Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 85

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Dairy Farmers Association is the voice for Grade A licensed dairy farms around our state. Our producers are family farmers who support some of our state's most well-known and beloved brands and provide safe, nutritional dairy products to our homes, schools, restaurants and beyond. We represent small dairies, large dairies, organic and traditional producers and other industry partners.

Our conventional and organic Grade A farmers are proud of their commitment to their animals, to their employees and to the environment. Oregon has some of the most stringent environmental laws in the country. Caring for our environment is more than just an obligation, its critical to our future.

SB 85 would set a dangerous precedent for Oregon agriculture. When the state dictates the size of a farm, it undermines farmers ability to evolve. Our producers are adapting to new regulations such as Ag Overtime, Paid Leave Oregon and the OSHA heat and smoke rules. Farms need the ability to adapt and grow to remain viable. A farm's management and efforts to preserve and protect the land, water, and air quality, determines its sustainability more than its size.

Dairy farmers are committed to being an environmental solution. Our farmers are leaders in using upcycled byproducts such as brewers' grains and food processing waste for animal feed, savings millions of tons from going into landfills. The U.S. dairy community is committed to providing the world with responsibly produced, nutritious dairy foods that nourish people, strengthen communities, and foster a sustainable future.

The dairy sector has been investing in sustainable practices before emissions were in the forefront of public concern. The dairy industry has become highly efficient with a smaller carbon footprint, even as the demand for dairy products has increased. On a national level, the dairy industry is committed to becoming NetZero by 2050.

In fact, due to innovative practices in cow health, improved feed and genetics, and modern management practices, **the environmental impact of producing a gallon of milk in 2017 has shrunk significantly from 2007, requiring 30% less water, 21% less land and a 19% smaller carbon footprint.**

Oregon dairy farmers have been leaders in their proactive efforts to improve practices, adopt technology and work collaboratively with local partners and state agencies. SB 85 would have a devastating impact on Oregon agriculture and Oregon dairy farmers. Our producers depend on each other and are not independent from farmers in other segments of agriculture. The unintended consequences would have a ripple effect across the state.

Our dairy farmers are in compliance with CAFO regulations. Water quality in several parts of the state has improved over the last 10-15 years with the Tillamook Bay being one of the most improved. Management is what matters, not the size of a farm.

Oregon is a national leader in milk quality. Oregonians currently have many options for local food, and we should be food secure. SB 85 would increase our dependence on out of state food production.

Our producers are proud of their commitment to their animals, to their employees and to the environment. Please oppose SB 85 (-1)

Tami Kerr  
Executive Director  
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association