



May 29, 2025

RE: Opposition to the -7 Amendment for HB 2548

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Members of the House Committee on Rules:

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

We strongly oppose the -7 amendment to HB 2548. Oregon dairy producers have struggled to survive new business and regulatory expenses over the last five years. Dairy farmers are price takers; they do not set the price for milk and can't pass CAT expenses, or any expenses, on to consumers. We are in the third year of the Ag Overtime implementation for farm workers and will be at 40 hours in 2027. Labor costs are 70% higher in Oregon, on average, than the rest of the U.S.

Economic data will be made available to legislators to understand how labor costs impact workers' hours and wages at the same time as the -7's study is reported. HB 4002 (2022) directs a quantitative analysis of employment and wage data and report to the Legislature by November 30, 2026 to understand the effects of overtime. The report is the product of interagency consultation across several state agencies on the identified economic impacts of overtime in 2023 - 2026.

Portland State University has no connection to agriculture in Oregon. The entities that work with agriculture are excluded in the -7 amendment. The amendment was poorly crafted, if the goal is truly to be unbiased.

Regulations and business requirements have had a significant impact on dairy farms in the state. We have lost 100 licensed farms in the last ten years, going from 240 to 140 dairy farms. The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association strongly opposes both HB 2548 and the -7 amendment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tami Kerr".

Tami Kerr, Executive Director
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association