

April 8, 2015

Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

On behalf of my client, Threemile Canyon Farms and other developers of anaerobic digesters, thank you for the opportunity to provide some of the benefits for extension of the BTC for manure digesters as incorporated in HB 2449.

Manure digesters have become an important part of the business model for developing environmentally smart dairy operations that can continue to be important components of economic development strategies in rural Oregon communities.

## **ENERGY BENEFITS**

- 38,000-40,000 cows
- Collective energy impact is \$50 million invested in 10 MW of renewable capacity
- Enough to power 6700-7000 homes/year
- Reliable source of renewable energy; avoids cost of purchasing energy from electrical grid

## **GREENHOUSE GAS BENEFITS**

- Reduction of 152,000 tons of CO2 equivalent (4-5 metric tons x 38,000 cows)
- Similar to removing 38,000 cars from Oregon roads

## **ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

- Current BTC credit provides \$110/cow
- Innovation Dairy Center finds digester provides \$715 net benefit/cow (electrical energy plus carbon credits plus productive use of nutrients as soil bedding and organic nutrients)...THEREFORE CREATING 7:1 return on investment
- Steady jobs for direct workers and indirect jobs
- Thousands of dollars invested in rural energy infrastructure
- Creation of a profitable organic food industry (Threemile Canyon Farms is up to 9,000 organic acres, branded products and new organic processing plant)

## **ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS**

- Improved air quality and odor reduction
- Improved water quality
- Improved plant uptake of nutrients and reduced runoff
- Reduction of pathogens and bacteria load in crop soils
- Reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers