

May 26, 2015



The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
Joint Ways & Means Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, S-211
Salem, OR 97301

Hand Delivered

1320 Capitol Street NE
Suite 160
Salem, OR 97301
(971) 599-5269
oregondairyfarmers.org

The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
Joint Ways & Means Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, H-272
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 255 – Vet Product Registration Fee

Dear Co-Chair Devin and Co-Chair Buckley:

Please be advised the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association (ODFA) supports the statutory cap increase of the Animal Health Program (AHP) to maintain current service levels.

The ODFA was established in 1892 and today represents the 240 “Grade A” Dairy operations in the State who contributed more than \$656 million dollars of total milk production in 2014. Today’s dairy operations embrace numerous technological advances, however, the relationship with their veterinarian is a personal and important partnership for their business. As an Association, we acknowledge the increase of the statutory cap on vet product registration fees from \$75 to \$150 will no doubt be passed through to each dairy.

However, in this instance, we understand the reality for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the agency charged with oversight of this program, has not received an increase in this program for more than a decade. Failure to pass this legislation will result in the Department making choices to reduce other programs. The Department’s leadership is well respected throughout the agriculture and natural resource industries and their budget requests have been well reasoned and transparent.

The Oregon Cattlemen’s Association would like to state their support as well. OCA was established in 1913 and has grown from 12 members to over 1,700 members that live all across Oregon. Oregon ranchers work closely with veterinarians to ensure the health of their herd and Oregon’s beef supply. This statutory cap increase of the AHP is necessary to maintain current service levels and keep Oregon’s cattle healthy.

Increasing the statutory cap on vet product registration fees from \$75 to \$150 will allow ODA to engage in rulemaking and increase fees through changes in administrative rule as needed to support the “Other Funds” current service of the program. At its maximum the concept would raise an additional \$225,000 per year in revenue.

The ODFA and OCA respectfully urges bipartisan, bicameral support of SB 255.

Please feel free to contact either of us if you have questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Tami Kerr, Executive Director
OREGON DAIRY FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Jerome Rosa, Executive Director
OREGON CATTLEMEN’S ASSOCIATION

Cc: The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Jackie Winters, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Greg Smith, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Alan Bates

The Honorable Fred Girod
The Honorable Bill Hansell
The Honorable Rod Monroe
The Honorable Arnie Roblan
The Honorable Chip Shields
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
The Honorable Chuck Thomsen
The Honorable Doug Whitsett
The Honorable David Gomberg
The Honorable John Huffman
The Honorable Betty Komp
The Honorable Mike McLane
The Honorable Dan Rayfield
The Honorable Tobias Read
The Honorable Gene Whisnant
The Honorable Gail Whitsett
The Honorable Jennifer Williamson