



Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
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SB 1008 TESTIMONY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES
SENATOR GINNY BURDICK, CHAIR

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Presented by
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Oregon Dairy Farmers Association

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning SB 1008 –A3 amendments. The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association is headquartered here in Salem and represents the 228 Oregon Dairies statewide. These multi generational farm families live and work on their farms and take pride in delivering the highest quality milk to the market everyday **under strict state and federal regulations.**

In 2015, the milk produced on Oregon's dairy farms resulted in an economic contribution of more than \$474 million dollars. The number of Oregon Dairies is directly related to the ability of each farm to withstand milk market price fluctuation against the cost of feed, labor, taxes, equipment and the ever changing regulatory burden from both state and federal levels.

It is imperative any new regulations, take into consideration the immediate and long term impact to every single dairy in operation today. Our small and medium size dairies are the most vulnerable in this current market where the cost of producing milk exceeds the return on their investment. Furthermore, the succession of the farm is called into question when the next generation is watching these day to day struggles play out on farm. To say yes to becoming a Dairy Farmer, the producer is saying yes to a work week that is 24/7, 365 days a year. There is no other industry that demands this type of intensity.

The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association appreciates the concessions made in the -3 amendments in the “on road portion of the bill” Section 4 (4) (a) – exempting Motor vehicles registered as farm vehicles under the provisions of ORS 805.300; Section (4) (b) Farm tractors as defined in ORS 801.265; and Section (4) (c) Implements of husbandry, as defined in ORS 801.310. However, the -3 amendment does not appear to provide for the same acknowledgment for “off road” vehicles that are farm vehicles. It has become clear that the intent of the -3 amendment is to provide some safe haven for agriculture as it references the California provisions. However, in its current form, the -3 amendment does not cover agriculture (farm vehicles for both on and off road).

The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association urges further efforts be made to exempt farm vehicles/tractors/implements of husbandry for both on and off road.

Furthermore, it is imperative the age of a replacement vehicle for on farm use be allowed to be older than 2007. The reality for dairy farmers when purchasing equipment is to replace equipment as it wears out. Vehicles/tractors/implements of husbandry older than 2007 would be considered “New” to a dairy farmer.

Finally, the vehicles delivering feed and other goods to the dairy farmer are oftentimes older than 2007. It is imperative that dairy farmers are able to continue to source feed and other inputs for their livestock.

The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association looks forward to working with the Committee to draft additional language.

The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association respectfully urges the Committee to further address the concerns of the Dairy farmers to ensure our 228 dairies remain in operation for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and attention.