



Y 1 FARMS, INC.

Custom Feeding • 5112 Maag Road • Vale, Oregon

Doug Maag, Owner • Res: (541) 473-2266 • Cell: (541) 881-6451 • Fax: (541) 473-9456

Corey Maag • Res: (541) 473-4004 • Cell: (541) 881-6452

Y1 FARMS INC. AND JAMIESON PRODUCE INC.

TESTIMONY

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CARBON REDUCTION

February 20, 2019

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CARBON REDUCTION:

I'M COREY MAAG, OWNER AND MANAGER OF Y1 FARMS IN VALE, OREGON. MY FATHER, DOUG MAAG, AND I OPERATE 1800 ACRES OF ROW CROP, A 8000 HEAD CATTLE FEEDLOT, AND OPERATE AN ONION PACKING SHED. THIS OPERATION IS A FAMILY OPERATION THAT ALSO INVOLVES MY MOTHER, WIFE, AND SISTER. WE ARE A TRUE 3RD AND 4TH GENERATION FAMILY FARM AND HOPE TO PASS THIS WAY OF LIFE DOWN TO MY YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE FUTURE. FOR THIS REASON, I'M WRITING THIS LETTER IN STRONG OPPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 2020 AS IT IS CURRENTLY DRAFTED.

EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE BOY HELPING MY FATHER ON THE FARM, I KNEW FARMING IS WHAT I WANTED MY CAREER TO BE AND THE ENVIRONMENT WHERE I WANTED MY CHILDREN TO GROW UP. THIS TOUGH FARMING ENVIRONMENT TEACHES DISCIPLINE, MORAL ETHICS, HONESTY, LEADERSHIP, AND A HARDWORKING WORK ETHIC.

THIS OPERATION HAS EVOLVED OVER TIME TO BE EFFICIENT AND CONSERVATIVE WITH OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. WE KNOW THAT WE CAN NOT SURVIVE IN A COMPETITIVE WORLD WIDE MARKET WITHOUT EMPLOYING FARMING PRACTICES THAT ENRICH OUR HEALTHY SOILS, MINIMIZE OUR USE OF WATER, AND LIMIT OUR INPUT COSTS. WE KNOW THE AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY HAS ALREADY MADE STRIDES IN PRODUCING THE HIGHEST QUANTITY AND QUALITY CROPS IN THE WORLD. IN THE LAST 15 YEARS, WE HAVE INCREASED OUR SUGAR BEET YIELDS FROM AN AVERAGE OF 30 TONS PER ACRE TO ALMOST 45 TONS PER ACRE. WE HAVE INCREASED OUR AVERAGE ONION YIELD OF 500-600 CWT TO OVER 1000 CWT PER ACRE. AMERICAN PRODUCERS RAISE MORE POUNDS OF QUALITY, SAFE BEEF THAN ANY OTHER PLACE IN THE WORLD WITH LESS RESOURCES. WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THESE THINGS BY UTILIZING FARMING PRACTICES THAT REDUCE OUR USE OF FOSSIL FUELS, MINIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF WATER WE CONSUME FOR IRRIGATION, REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF SOIL EROSION THAT HELPS KEEP OUR STREAMS AND RIVERS CLEAN, AND REDUCE OUR USE OF SYNTHETIC FERTILIZERS. ALL OF THESE PRACTICES ARE ACCOMPLISHING THE GOALS OF THIS COMMITTEE AND STILL ALLOWS BUSINESSES TO COMPETE GLOBALLY AND PROVIDE FOOD FOR A GROWING WORLD POPULATION.

HB 2020 IS GOING DISCOURAGE THE UTILIZATION OF NEW FARMING PRACTICES THAT REQUIRE A FINANCIAL INVESTMENT. WITH RISING FUEL AND NATURAL GAS PRICES, FARMERS WILL NOT BE ABLE

TO ATTAIN MARGINS THAT PROMOTE FUTURE INVESTMENT. CURRENTLY, FARM MARGINS ARE THIN AND THESE ADDED COSTS WILL MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SURVIVE AND COMPETE WITH NEIGHBORING STATES AND COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT FACED WITH THE SAME RISING COSTS. WE ARE PRICE TAKERS IN THE MARKET PLACE, WE CANNOT PASS OUR INCREASED COSTS TO THE CONSUMER.

HB 2020 IS GOING TO INCREASE THE PRICE OF FOOD AND MAKE OUR FOOD COME FROM OTHER PLACES OTHER THAN OREGON. OREGON PRODUCERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COMPETE AND MANY WILL GO OUT OF BUSINESS, MOVE TO OTHER STATES, OR LOSE ANY EQUITY THEY HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD OVER MANY YEARS. THIS BILL IS GOING TO CHANGE THE UNIQUE LANDSCAPE AND DIVERSITY OF RURAL OREGON COMMUNITIES.

IF THIS BILL PASSES, THE FUTURE OF OREGON AGRICULTURE WILL TAKE A TREMENDOUS PLUNGE. YOUNG FARMERS ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO COME BACK TO THE FAMILY FARM BECAUSE ADDITIONAL COSTS AND REGULATIONS ARE GOING TO MAKE THEM NONCOMPETITIVE IN THE MARKET PLACE.

I HAVE READ THAT THE PROPONENTS OF THIS BILL MAINTAIN THAT OREGONIANS SHOULD HAVE A MORAL/ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY DOES NOT TAKE THIS LIGHTLY AS MOTHER NATURE PROVIDES US WITH THE RESOURCES WE NEED TO DO OUR JOB.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD URGE THIS COMMITTEE TO STRENUOUSLY STUDY THE IMPACTS OF THIS BILL. IT IS GOING TO NEGATIVELY AFFECT ALL AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES OF THIS STATE. I BELIEVE AS REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS, IT IS YOUR MORAL/ETHICAL OBLIGATION TO CONSIDER THE IMPACT ON ALL OREGONIANS. IS THE TRADE OF LITTLE OR NO EFFECT ON CLIMATE, WORTH THE RISK OF DESTROYING OREGON'S AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES? I WOULD HOPE NOT!!

THANKS,

COREY MAAG