

Good Day Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today in support of the bill regarding establishing grades and regulation of the sale of raw butter in Oregon. Consumers are genuinely interested in and looking for sources of raw butter within this state. I am a small dairywoman, and I get requests for this frequently. These consumers frequently cross the boarder to buy raw butter in California where it is legal costing Oregon dairies potential revenue.

According to the CDC, raw butter has an excellent track record for food safety. The sale and or distribution of raw butter is currently legal in 11 other states, including California where one dairy Raw Farm (formerly Organic Pastures Dairy Company) has sold over 2 million pounds of raw butter over the past 20 years without incident. So clearly the production of raw butter can be done very safely.

Dairy farmers are struggling currently and Oregon is losing dairy farmers at an incredibly alarming rate. We need to see more opportunity for these hard working individuals and this is just the sort of opportunity that could provide health, culture and revenue to the people of Oregon.