

Oregon Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Thursday, March 18

SCR 16: In Memoriam, Martin Davis "Marty" Myers

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Tim Curoe and I was a friend of Marty Myers. I had the pleasure working with him for more than three years.

I want to thank the sponsors of SCR 16 and the committee for taking the time to hear about the life of Marty Myers. Similar to many others, I learned a great deal from Marty and wish I had more time with him. Marty had a lot to teach, and he was generous with his knowledge - not only with those who worked with him, but others in the ag community, business community and environment community.

As many of you know, Marty was the visionary behind Threemile Canyon Farms and remained its leader for 20 years. In fact, Marty had a vision of what Threemile could be even before we milked a single cow.

His vision was to create a productive dairy operation and crop farm that worked together, in harmony with each other and the environment. The dairy operation would produce high quality milk as well as nutrients for the crops, which would be grown, in part, to feed the dairy cows. The farm would let nothing go to waste and find a use for every byproduct.

Marty called it our "closed loop system" and that system -- and his vision -- continues to flourish today at Threemile.

Marty was an inspiration to us and to many here in Oregon. Through his service to many state agencies and organizations, many of those here today had the pleasure of working with Marty. And, it was truly a pleasure to be in his company.

He showed me and everyone he worked with what it meant to be a fifth-generation Oregonian and the values that guided his life and work.

Marty had a very clear picture of what it means to be a member of the community. Under his leadership, the farm began programs to regularly donate food to the local food bank, provide a staging site for the local fire department and support programs for youth interested in agriculture.

While Marty had many professional accomplishments and accolades, greatest pride was in the Threemile Canyon Farms team. He was quick to give credit to the committed individuals who shared his passion for the farm and loved that they often recruited friends and family to work there.

He created a culture of development that included a very successful intern program and other programs that encouraged young people to pursue careers in agriculture because he saw them as the future of the farm.

There just aren't enough kind words to use when describing Marty. He was thoughtful, quick to laugh, and someone who always focused on what was possible. But most of all, I will remember him as friend and a true partner.

I'm grateful that the Oregon legislature is considering recognizing this truly great citizen and statesman. Thank you for your consideration of this resolution.