



**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 583
SUBMITTED BY PAUL SNYDER,
ON BEHALF OF TILLAMOOK COUNTY CREAMERY ASSOCIATION
SENATE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
APRIL 1, 2021**

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA) is a 112-year-old farmer-owned, farmer-led cooperative, which is known for the quality of the products we produce and for our commitment to working collaboratively with a diverse set of stakeholders to solve complex problems. For generations, our farmers have worked to be good neighbors and stewards by protecting land and preserving water as their livelihoods depend on the resources they use. We're dedicated to continually improving agricultural practices, leveraging everything from scientific and technological breakthroughs to our farmers intergenerational knowledge about the land. Our commitment to enduring ecosystems extends from our farms to facilities and throughout our supply chain.

TCCA opposes SB 583, which will have a profoundly negative effect on Oregon's dairy industry, which we believe is a success story for our state. This legislation would not permit any new dairies of 2,500 or more cows, nor would it allow a current dairy of that size to continue to operate if it sought to make any changes to the farm, including environmental improvements. The industry relies on farms of all sizes to stay viable, and we disagree with the narrative that size of the operation adversely correlates to environmental impact.

A farm's management and efforts to preserve the land, water, and air quality, and protect animal health, determine its sustainability much more than its size. In fact, the larger the farm, the more scrutiny it receives from both regulators and the local community, and the more consistent the farm maintains contact with regulating bodies.



We've only seen one recent situation in the state where a large dairy did not act in accordance with the state's high standards and legal parameters, and it was successfully shut down. The actions of one bad actor should not necessitate drastic legislation, especially after industry worked with state agencies to make appropriate regulatory changes to ensure requirements are met.

We appreciate the partnership with the Oregon Department of Agriculture which has made improvements to the current Combined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permitting process. We join ODA, the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, Three Mile Canyon Farms and other key industry players in supporting animal welfare and environmental stewardship requirements in the current law. If additional improvements need to be made, then they can be done through collaborative work, without first shutting down a key part of Oregon's dairy industry.

Thank you on behalf of Tillamook County Creamery Association.