



24 May 2021

House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chair Drazan, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 16, in memoriam: Martin Davis "Marty" Myers.

Marty Myers was a true leader in our state as a visionary in the dairy industry and more broadly in agriculture. He was a national leader in both sustainable agriculture and responsible business practices. Marty was a rare leader that could see the future, work in practical ways to make his vision a reality and bring others along.

Marty led businesses at the intersection of consumers' push for lower-cost food and society's ever-increasing expectation that agriculture be responsible and sustainable, all while meeting the challenge of feeding billions more people while preserving our planet and natural resources. I so admired how Marty approached this challenge - with an unwavering belief that we can do both.

Amidst misconceptions about large-scale dairy operations, Marty proved that agriculture at large scale can serve as a model of sustainability, provide a positive and meaningful work experience and opportunity for employees and their families, and be a model of world-class animal care. He built an operation that was best-in-class in each of these areas and was a model for social responsibility, community support and investment. Marty and Threemile Canyon Farms truly led the way for our industry - throughout the state, the U.S., and globally.

Several years ago, I was speaking with a family who owns and runs a small, multi-generational dairy farm. They expressed concern regarding large-scale dairy in general and Threemile Canyon



specifically, so I offered to arrange a visit to the operation. They were blown away. The family was certainly interested in the efficiency of Threemile, but what impressed them most was the support of the team that works there, the degree of animal care, and the productive relationship with natural resources.

At Tillamook County Creamery Association, we are very proud of our partnership with Threemile Canyon Farms and with Marty, who himself contributed a great deal to our success over the past 20 years.

As business partners for almost nine years, Marty and I didn't always agree; though due to Marty's genuine, collaborative, approach we always emerged from a disagreement with a win-win solution and a stronger relationship - and for my part, increased respect for Marty.

To me personally, Marty was a business partner, a mentor and friend. He taught me so much about agriculture and about leadership, which I will carry with me for years to come. He held firmly to his values and his positions, and I admire how he spoke directly and honestly, but in a way that made people on all sides of an issue feel heard, respected, and valued, which fostered trust and respect. He was just simply a wonderful human being; his smile and his legendary quick laugh made those around him feel lucky to be in his presence, and in many ways just appreciate life a bit more.

We had one of our typical meandering conversations a few days before his death - one that ranged on topics from business to personal and invariably focused on our state and how to make it better for all its citizens. I miss him dearly.

Marty was a visionary leader in our industry, in business, and for our State. He created a model for sustainable and responsible agriculture nationally and globally. Through his work at Threemile, and as a leader in our state, he led us boldly into the future. Our society will benefit from his work and the example he set for generations.

Thank you for your recognition of his outstanding contributions and for the opportunity to testify about my friend.



Sincerely,

Patrick Criteser
President & CEO