



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4053
SUBMITTED BY TREVOR BELTZ, MANAGER, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
ON BEHALF OF TILLAMOOK COUNTY CREAMERY ASSOCIATION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Co-Chairs McLain and Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of House Bill 4053. Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA) is a 113-year-old farmer-owned, farmer-led cooperative, known for the quality of products we produce and our commitment to the communities we serve. We are headquartered in Tillamook, Oregon, where we operate our flagship processing plant and welcome more than 1.3 million visitors annually to our Visitors Center.

OR 6 is the only major arterial between Tillamook County and the metro area. Although Hwy 26 and 30 go to Clatsop County, and Hwy 18 connect to Lincoln County, Hwy 6 is the only viable option for the majority of residents in the area, as well as the main route for all incoming and outgoing goods. We have seen the road conditions deteriorate at a dramatic rate over the last few years, with major portions slowly sliding off the mountainside. We've also seen an unfortunate increase in injuries and fatalities – last year alone 7 deaths occurred between Milepost 6 and Milepost 46. With the region's reliance on this highway, we request your support in studying the breadth of issues in order to plan for adequate repairs and improvements.

Between our head office, visitors center, and processing plant, we employ about 600 people, at least 50 of which need to travel on some portion of the highway to get to work. We also operate a fleet of 16 trucks to transport products to and from the plant. If road conditions require closure of any portion of Hwy 6 east of Banks, our fleet must reroute via Hwy 101 and US 26, which would result in 56 additional miles, and 1.5 more hours of drive time per round trip.

We care about the safety of our employees, our impact on the environment, the viability of our farms, and the resiliency of our community. Please join us in supporting House Bill 4053.