

Submitter: Barbara Talley

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB2616

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and members of the committee,

My name is Barbara Talley and I'm excited to write in support of HB 2616.

As a responsible small dairy sheep farmer, I'm most interested in making sure that Oregon's dairy industry follows best practices with regard to raw milk for the safety and confidence of consumers, the dairy industry at large, regulators and the insurance industry. In order to accomplish this goal, it's time to revisit and update Oregon's outdated raw milk laws.

For years, my husband and I have milked and cared for our flock of dairy ewes, with the goal of selling our milk to consumers. However, we find that at present we are unable to obtain insurance for our enterprise, which has been a serious obstacle and deterrent to our being able to establish our farm business. In addition, I've been frustrated by a lack of clear standards around safety procedures, particularly how often to get milk samples tested and where to send them as well as testing for bacterial residues onsite. I would welcome the opportunity to be trained in all the necessary procedures and thus be assured that I am producing the best possible product for my family and my future customers, as well as ensuring the health and well being of my animals.

If passed, HB 2616 will ensure that Oregon producers are able to meet the growing demand for raw milk in our state safely and effectively by implementing nationally recognized testing, safety and risk mitigation measures and giving cow dairies the same opportunities that sheep and goat dairies already have. With the proposed updates to the current law, perhaps the insurance industry will be willing to extend policies to farms like ours, and we can finally begin to make an income from our enterprise and be able to offer a nutritious and safe product to our local community.

Please support the passage of HB 2616 and help small dairies across the state thrive and grow. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Barbara Talley