

Chair Golden and committee members:

My name is Peggy Curtis and I have been farming 163 acres in Scio for 40 years and I am in favor of SB 85-1. I have listened to testimony from several people who have touted the Tillamook Creamery system on several occasions saying that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

Well, I have been fishing the Nestucca River which runs through cattle country in Tillamook County since 2011 and in a short 12 years I have seen an incredible decline in the Salmon runs. I am always in wonder why the banks of the lower end of the river are so devoid of vegetation and why the farmers haven't planted trees and native vegetation. I was drifting the Nestucca river fishing for Steelhead a few years back when I witnessed a large group of cattle descending the eroded bank of the river and several urinated and pooped in the river right in front of me. I watched the poop float right across my fishing line in disbelief. I took pictures and video, thinking that I need to show this to someone! In contrast, we have been working very hard for years to restore Bear Branch which runs through my property in Scio, planting trees and fencing livestock off this crucial spawning creek. I have always wondered why the farmers in Tillamook County have not taken advantage of programs like the ones offered for Bear Branch and followed suit to protect the Nestucca River as it is such a crucial Salmon spawning river. It feels as though they didn't receive the memo! If the farmers are not willing to do the right thing on their properties near the watersheds, I feel that we need to give them a push to be better stewards of the land and protect our most valuable resource, water!!!

Please pass SB 85-1 so we can leave a cleaner watershed for future generations.

Thanks for your consideration,

Peggy Curtis