



## Tillamook County Board of Commissioners

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David Yamamoto, Commissioner

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### SB 85-4 Opposition Testimony

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, members of the Senate Committee on Rules, thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today in opposition to SB 85-4 relating to Confined Animal Feeding Operations. For the record, I am Tillamook County Commissioner David Yamamoto, also Co-Chair of AOC's Governance, Revenue and Veterans Steering Committee.

Being from Tillamook County, I am familiar with many aspects of dairy operations and even more familiar with the many multi-generational dairy families who reside, own businesses, provide family wage jobs, attend church, volunteer, donate time and dollars, and contribute to their communities in so many ways that helps build the social fabric of our small rural coastal county.

Approximately 70% of dairy products made in Oregon are consumed outside of the state, including both domestic and international markets. Milk is Oregon's fourth most valuable commodity. In terms of agricultural exports, dairy products are Oregon's fifth most valuable commodity. Oregon farms help to feed not only Oregonians, but this Nation and the World.

For over a decade, special interest groups have aimed to curb Oregon's dairy industry by proposing limitations on Confined Animal Feeding Operation permits. These CAFO permits are partnerships with Oregon DEQ and administered by Oregon Dept of Agriculture. The story of Lost Valley Farms is continually referenced, yet the effectiveness of our current CAFO regulations continues to prove that our current system works and works well. Let us not forget that this current CAFO update effort started as a poultry bill and as we knew it would have morphed into an all species assault. Let's not allow this single species effort to harm those where current regulations work as intended.

I will let others speak to the many problems contained within the -4 amendments and concentrate on Section 12...Land Use. Statewide Planning Goal 3 prioritizes Exclusive Farm Use zoned lands for agricultural uses, requiring that these lands be preserved and maintained for farm use, consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural products, forest and open space, with the state's agricultural land use policy expressed in ORS 215.243. ORS 215.243(2) declares that the preservation of a maximum amount of the limited supply of agricultural land is necessary to the conservation of the state's economic resources and the preservation of such land in large blocks, is necessary in maintaining the agricultural economy of the state and for the assurance of adequate, healthful and nutritious food for the people of this state and nation. In addition, this committee is fortunate to have scheduled testimony from Sarah Absher, Tillamook County Director of Community Development who will go into much more detail on Section 12...Land Use.

It is important to note, that the ever increasing cost of regulatory compliance is not free. Dairy is not a business where farmers can set their price based on the cost of doing business. The economics of the dairy business are extremely challenging. Yet through all of this, Oregon's dairy industry is not a threat to water quality, animal welfare or public health. Instead, our dairy farmers know it is good business to follow their values in protecting the environment, supporting community and promoting healthy animals...all while providing Oregon's economy with a \$9.7B in total economic impact, 13,000 direct jobs, and over \$500M in wages.

Oregon's dairy farms are critically important to Oregon and many of our Counties. SB 85 threatens to limit the growth and flexibility of our multi-generational family farms for reasons that are not well reasoned. We must support our dairy farms and farmers and I ask you to join me in opposing SB 85.

Respectfully submitted,

David Yamamoto

Tillamook County Commissioner

Co-Chair, AOC Governance, Revenue and Veterans Steering Committee