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Testimony in support of HB 3119 – Submitted to the record electronically

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba, B. Levy and Members of the Committee
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

My name is Matt McElligott. I reside in North Powder where I ranch with my spouse, LaDonn. I currently serve as the President of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA). OCA represents the 11,000 ranchers who call Oregon home and raise 1.1 million head of cattle across the state with cattle in every county. Every rancher depends upon their heavy-duty vehicles to haul cattle and hay as well as other implements to and from their ranches.

It is my honor to offer testimony in favor of HB 3119 which if passed, would prohibit the Department of Environmental Quality from implementing or enforcing the Advanced Clean Trucks regulations before January 1, 2027. Any interruption in the availability of reliable heavy-duty vehicles could have catastrophic consequences and negatively impact the ability of ranchers to manage their diverse "food production" systems everyday of the year despite weather, unreliable markets and road conditions. Ranchers are on the front line to ensure safe beef is available for purchase by Oregon's consumers.

The OCA encouraged the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) during its public hearing on this issue to follow the staff recommendation to delay implementation. As we understand it, the staff recommendation encouraged the delay to allow manufacturers of vehicles and infrastructure to catch up with the rule so consumer demand could follow. Unfortunately, the EQC chose to maintain its course to "push" the manufacturers forward. We believe without delay, the impacts to Oregonians who depend on heavy-duty vehicles will create outcomes that could devastate the economy and the industries that contribute to the economic health of Oregon.

The OCA encourages the Committee to pass HB 3119 to delay the implementation of the EQC Rule to allow Oregon to align its policies with federal standards, reducing regulatory complexity for farmers and ranchers who ship across state lines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt McElligott, President
OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION