



February 1, 2025

RE: Support for SB 812

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire:

The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association is the voice for Grade A licensed dairy farms across the state. Our producers are family farmers who support some of our state's most well-known and beloved brands and provide safe, nutritional dairy products to our homes, schools, restaurants and beyond. We represent small dairies, large dairies, organic and traditional producers and other industry partners.

We strongly support SB 812, which would repeal a sunset to make the landowner preference program permanent. Landowner permits are one of the few tools available to our producers to help control the elk and deer population that impact their farms.

A producer in the Willamette Valley said it was more affordable to purchase feed for his animals than to grow it, since deer and elk consumed a significant portion of it. The amount of damage elk can cause to fences and the feed they consume is staggering.

This is outside the scope of SB 213, but in a perfect world, there would be funds available to reimburse farmers for their investment in fencing materials, either to repair damaged fences or to build elk fencing, and to reimburse farmers for the feed consumed by wildlife on private property. The size of many elk and deer herds has doubled and tripled in the last 10 years and the negative impact to landowners has grown exponentially.

The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association strongly supports SB 812, to make the landowner preference program permanent.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tami Kerr'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tami Kerr, Executive Director
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association