

Senator Dembrow and committee members:

As I read the text of SB 197, I am sitting at my kitchen counter in Boardman eating lunch. My lunch consists of Tillamook medium cheddar cheese as well as other items. More than likely the Tillamook cheese that I am eating was made locally in Boardman from milk produced locally at one or more of the dairies that this bill is intended to regulate. I'm sure that you are aware that the majority of Tillamook cheese is made in Morrow County. I would be happy to arrange for a personal tour for anyone on your committee that would be interested in any aspect of the Dairy Industry in Morrow County. That would include production of hay and other crops for food to milking to a tour of the cheese plant itself.

The Dairy industry and the large scale dairies have been an important part of the economy in Morrow County for more than a decade. When Tillamook decided to expand Morrow County was one of the many areas that they looked at. Boardman was the eventual finalist because some of the large scale dairies also agreed to come, which insured a reliable milk supply for the cheese plant.

The large scale dairies that this bill is intended to regulate, because of economies of scale are much more environmentally friendly than smaller operations. They can and in fact do use methane digesters to separate their solid waste into useful byproducts, such as organic fertilizer and electricity to name a few. These dairies are located here because of our dry climate. The annual precipitation is less than 10 inches. We don't have the problems that too much rain causes in other dairy regions.

The Oregon legislature has a lot of immediate problems that need fixed. I don't envy the job that you have from balancing the budget, to passing a transportation bill, to finding a way to get us out of the bottom in academics. Passing new regulation to fix a problem that doesn't exist is not one of them. I would urge you to let this bill die in committee.

Sent from my iPad
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