

Larry and Pamela Zweifel

7600 Hwy 101 S.

Tillamook, OR 97141

DEQ

MAR 21 2011

Water Quality

Andrea Matzke

Oregon DEQ Water Quality Division

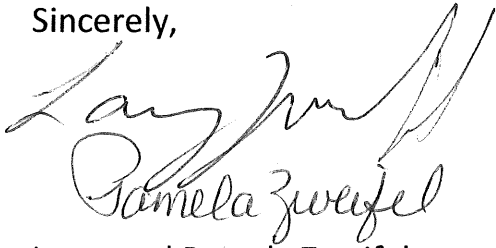
Ms Matzke,

My husband and I are farmers and have both lived on farms our entire lives. We are very concerned about the DEQ Toxics Rule Making process. Larry was raised on a dairy farm in Tillamook and I grew up in Corvallis on a poultry farm. We have been dairy and poultry farmers all our lives. We believe the Area Plans and Rules have significantly improved water quality in Oregon as it relates to pollution from non-point agricultural sources.

We believe it is critical that any water quality regulation of farming practices needs to remain under the direction and enforcement of ODA. They administer practical outcome-based methods to reduce water pollution from agriculture nonpoint sources. The plans must be economically reasonable and implemented only to the maximum extent practical as described by the federal Clean Water Act. If DEQ moves forward with the proposed rulemaking language, I believe agriculture landowners and land managers could very likely be subject to unreasonable and economically inefficient rules that regulate farms and ranches right out of business in Oregon. We are one of the state's largest employers and during this current economic time we are an important part of keeping Oregon economically viable.

Please consider the necessity of paying for what rules are being made. If DEQ needs to hire extra personnel who will pay for it and where the money will come from to regulate it. ODA is already set up and doing a good job of keeping track of our water quality and working to help production agriculture elevate the water quality on farms and ranches.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Zweifel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Larry and Pamela Zweifel

Zweifel Farms

Tillamook, OR 97141