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Johnson recognized by dairy farmers for outstanding service *Scappoose legislator heralded as a 'real friend of the dairy industry'*

SALEM – Sen. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) was honored as the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association Distinguished Service Award winner at a ceremony this week during the group's annual conference in Salem.

"I am honored to have been chosen by this group of hard-working Oregonians for my efforts, not just for the dairy industry, but for all of my constituents and the state as a whole," Johnson said. "With much of Tillamook County in my district, obviously it is crucial to be well-versed in the issues that face the many dairy farmers in our state. It's a wonderful industry that creates jobs through our natural resources and exports world-class products from right here in Oregon."

The ODFA recognized Johnson for her hard work in the Oregon Legislature, as well as her stance on issues that impact the dairy farming industry and other small businesses. She was praised for her responsiveness to constituents – particularly dairy farmers – as well as her honesty and willingness to explain why she doesn't agree with any particular stakeholder on an issue.

Johnson earned her undergraduate degree in history and went on to obtain her law degree from Lewis and Clark College. She is a licensed commercial pilot of both fixed and rotor-wing aircraft and founded Transwestern Helicopters in 1978.

Serving in her third term in the Oregon Senate, Johnson also held a seat in the House of Representatives for more than two terms. Public service runs in her blood, as her father, the late Sam Johnson, also was a legislator, representing Redmond in the House of Representatives. Her mother, Becky Johnson, also has served on numerous state boards.

The ODFA speaks on behalf of dairy farmers statewide who work 365 days a year to bring milk to market that consumers enjoy in their drinking glasses, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, coffee and other products. Farms range in size and structure, and Oregon is home to 228 multi-generational dairy farm families. The organization's goal is to "create an atmosphere that is conducive for Oregon dairy producers of all types, all sizes and in all areas of the state," according to the ODFA's website.

"Everyone in the Capitol knows that Betsy loves her dairy farmers," said ODFA President Chad Allen, a Tillamook-area dairy producer. "With a strong background in natural resources, she understands what it takes to make a living from the land. ... Betsy has been a real friend of the dairy industry for many years and we are lucky to have her protecting our family farms."

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