

From: Powder Creek Ranch powdercreek@hotmail.com

Subject: Resolution 310

Date: February 9, 2020 at 2:10 PM

To: kvalness@oda.state.or.us, Farm Stay U.S. scottie@farmstayus.com, Powder Creek Ranch powdercreek@hotmail.com

PR

*To the Board of Agriculture:*

*Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Resolution 310 relating to siting of agritourism.*

*I am Brenda Charter, owner operator of Powder Creek Ranch in the Coast Range, Tillamook County, OR. We are small farmers of heritage pork, beef and chickens. We also operate a primitive campground seasonally to supplement the cost of living on rural acreage. Prior to the campground, we operated a bed and breakfast in our home for 9 years. A large attraction for our guests and campers has been the ability to interact with farm animals in a real farm setting. Children from cities, who otherwise wouldn't even know their food comes from someplace other than the grocery store, are able to pet and feed the animals, collect eggs etc. and purchase their breakfast items at the farm.*

*I am writing to request that the Board not approve the current resolution and instead solicit input from the community to create a revised resolution that adequately meets the needs of farmers today and provides a structure to preserve both our land, heritage and opportunities to generate revenue by having guests on our property for the purposes of events, tours, classes and overnight stays.*

*Without the ability to supplement our income with the campground and the livestock, we would perhaps have to move from Powder Creek Ranch which has been in our family since 1974. Before we opened the campground, we struggled every year to pay the*

*property taxes, sometimes going into debt until the following tax season.*

*Agritourism is an essential component of rural farming in the 21st century. In Tillamook County, Travel Oregon and Tillamook Coast started the North Coast Food Trail, [www.northcoastfoodtrail.com](http://www.northcoastfoodtrail.com) in 2017. Powder Creek Ranch is proud to be a part of this agritourism effort to energize the economy of Tillamook, Lincoln and Clatsop counties. Equivalent to the Hood River Fruit Loop, the North Coast Food Trail encourages farm-to-table dining while enjoying Oregon's beautiful landscape.*

*Sincerely,*

*Brenda Charter*

Brenda Charter  
POWDER CREEK RANCH  
Campsites and Natural Area