



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Kevin Cameron
Commissioner Sam Brentano
Commissioner Colm Willis

March 21, 2019

(503) 588-5212
(503) 588-5237-FAX

Marion County testimony on SB 103 & SB 104

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sam Brentano
Kevin Cameron
Colm Willis

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

John Lattimer

- Marion County strongly opposes SB 103 & SB 104.
- Marion County is the largest grossing agricultural county in the state and we support our farmers.
- Marion County has 26 dairy farms (of the 217 dairies state wide).
- Many of our local dairy farms are owned and operated by the same family for generations.
- Dairies are already heavily regulated for water quality, waste management, food safety, employee wages, and safety, and much more:
 - 8 different entities regulate production facilities on farms
 - 4 different entities regulate animal welfare on farms
 - 8 different entities regulate farm employees
- Regulatory Compliance is not FREE – While dairy farmers have also endured 4 consecutive years of low prices, they have also shouldered increases in the cost of fuel, feed, and transportation. Some dairies may not financially survive additional regulatory burden.
- Why penalize **ALL** dairy farmers for the mistakes of one large producer?
- **SB 103 & SB 104 – go too far:**
 - Dairy operations need to continue to be regulated by state and federal agencies, not local governments.
 - Both bills allow local governments to regulate air and water emissions under the guise of human health and safety. Counties are not equipped, knowledgeable, nor staffed with expertise in the area of dairy operations regulation and are definitely not air and water emissions experts.
 - Market conditions should drive the size of a dairy, not the state or the legislature.

(Continued...)

- Both bills eliminate the use of an exemption allowing cattle owners to use an unlimited amount of water without permits required for other water uses. Water use should not be restricted, dictated or limited. Without adequate water, cattle health, milk production, and sanitary milk houses will be compromised.

Marion County strongly urges your opposition to SB 103 & SB 104