

Watts Remy

From: Kendra Kimbirauskas <kendrakimbirauskas@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:19 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: SB 103

Dear Senator Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kendra Kimbirauskas. I work and farm in Linn County and I have deep roots in Dairy, having grown up milking cows with my dad on our family's farm. I have also been engaged in the issue surrounding mega dairies in Oregon since 2007, when then Governor Kulongoski appointed me to the Dairy Air Quality Task Force (DAQTF).

The DAQTF met and came up with consensus recommendations that were agreed to by all members, including by representatives from Tillamook Creamery Association, the Dairy Farmers of Oregon, Threemile Canyon Farms and Senator Betsy Johnson. Sadly the recommendations were never acted upon and now 12 years later, not only has absolutely nothing been done to curb emissions from mega dairies, but those members of the DAQTF have flip-flopped on their support for the DAQTF recommendations.

Not only do we have inadequate regulations, the recent mess at Lost Valley Ranch is indicative that neither ODA nor DEQ are capable of overseeing the current permitting system when it comes to these mega dairies.

We need a time out. We need a moratorium on mega dairies in this state. We need to pass SB 103.

Not only is Oregon severely lacking in the appropriate safeguards to protect our water and air from the pollution of mega dairies, but there appears to be no consideration for what these mega dairies are doing to our family dairy farms that are suffering because of terrible milk prices and a glut of milk on the market.

I routinely have dairy farmer friends confide in me that they are worried not only about their future, but the future of dairy in our state. Will we be a state with family dairy farms or just massive industrial scale dairy operations?

While the Governor and the dairy association seem to be courting more and even larger dairy operations, the Oregon legislature would be wise to hit the pause button by passing a moratorium on new dairy operations until 1) there are adequate air and water regulations in place and 2) until a complete economic analysis can be completed on the impacts that these mega dairies are having on family dairy farms in our state.

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