



Feb. 10, 2020

Dear Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee Members:

We, the below signed members of Stand Up to Factory Farms (a coalition of local, state, and national organizations concerned about the harmful impacts of mega-dairies on Oregon's family farms, communities, the environment, and animal welfare), **request that the committee not pass Senate Bill 1513 out of committee.**

This bill simply doesn't go far enough to address the deep negative impacts that this type of large-scale animal agriculture has on the state and its residents. We simply cannot afford to give false security that the state's problems with mega-dairy oversight have been solved, and that we can go back to business as usual, paving the way for even more mega-dairies in Oregon. To pass this bill would threaten our ability to effectively address the long-term needs of impacted communities, our independent family farmers, and Oregon's air and water.

We don't need any more minor regulatory tweaks. We need legislators to take bold action to solve the ongoing mega-dairy crisis. We believe that **bold action, instead, should be a moratorium on all new and expanding mega-dairies in Oregon.**

No one wants to see another Lost Valley Farm debacle: a dairy concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) permitted for 30,000 cows that was forced to shut down by the state last year after hundreds of documented environmental violations, including overflowing mortalities storage, as well as egregious conditions for animals and workplace health and safety abuses.

But it's not just about Lost Valley Farm. Oregon was experiencing the negative effects of a consolidating dairy industry long before those high-profile problems – in the forms of mega-dairy air and water pollution, unsustainable water extraction, a dramatic loss of family farms, and concerns for animal welfare.

Yet the State Department of Agriculture is still currently considering a permit application by Easterday Farms, threatening to double down on the failed approach that led to the Lost Valley Farm crisis by allowing another nearly 30,000-animal dairy at the Lost Valley site.

Permitting another 30,000 cows in an existing Groundwater Management Area (for water quality) and Critical Groundwater Area (for water quantity), bringing the number of cows in the area over 100,000, would be extremely irresponsible. The state needs to protect all Oregonians, not sacrifice community health for private profit.

The call for moratoriums is growing nationwide at both state and federal levels. In December 2019, Senator Cory Booker introduced the Farm System Reform Act, a bill that would implement several livestock farming reforms including a moratorium on new CAFOs.

A majority of Americans say they want more stringent oversight of large-scale livestock operations, according to a national poll by Johns Hopkins University's Center for a Livable Future released in Dec. 2019. The polling follows a recent recommendation from the nation's leading public health association to temporarily halt the creation of new CAFOs and increase their oversight and regulation.

The poll surveyed 1,000 registered voters across the country, and another 400-plus voters each in Iowa and North Carolina, both of which have a high concentration of CAFOs.

- 57% of all voters surveyed said that there should be more oversight of large animal farms
- **43% favored a national ban on the creation of new CAFOs.**
- More than 80% of respondents said they were concerned about air and water pollution caused by CAFOs and worker safety risks at large-scale animal farms.

The consequences of continued construction of large, industrial mega-dairies in Oregon are entirely foreseeable from the experiences of other states, and those experiences belie the industry talking points that "a farm is a farm" and "size doesn't matter." Rural communities across America, often lacking any meaningful local control, have learned that mega-dairies, and all factory farms, are incompatible with protecting vibrant family farm economies and healthy rural communities.

A thoughtful analysis of the reforms needed to protect Oregon's environment, communities, and farms requires a complete time out from the expansion of the mega-dairy industry. We urge the committee not to pass Senate Bill 1513 out of committee.

Respectfully,

Shari Sirkin
Friends of Family Farmers

Kristin Ostrom

Oregon Rural Action

Brian Posewitz
WaterWatch of Oregon

Lauren Goldberg
Columbia Riverkeeper

Bob Sallinger
Humane Voters Oregon

Jennifer Hauge
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Amy Van Saun
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Hannah Connor
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Scott Beckstead
Humane Society of the United States

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