

I am submitting my statement of support for SB-583. The expansion of industrial dairies, particularly in the Lower Umatilla Basin is an irresponsible concept due to the concerns over, and existence of high levels of nitrates in the essential groundwater aquifers in the lower Umatilla and Columbia River basins. There are already a large number of food processor, industrial agriculture, and existing industrial dairy operations in this region, all of which contribute to nitrate loading in the area. To allow further expansions of industrial dairies is a formula for increased nitrate loading thereby leading to human health problems, and degradation of agricultural lands. I'll also mention the ultimate unsustainability of industrial agriculture for the future generations of small, diverse farmers and farm communities, and the contributions of large confined animal feeding operations to greenhouse gas emissions. Respectfully,
Daniel Ball, Ph.D, Professor Emeritus, Oregon State University, Crop and Soil Science Department.