

I am writing in support of SB 583. I have several concerns about industrial scale mega dairies:

Impact on small dairies and farmers - mega-dairies contribute to the loss of small Oregon dairies by flooding the market with cheap milk. I value family farms and healthy regional agriculture. The economies of scale in mega dairies put small farmers at a severe economic disadvantage.

Greenhouse gas - Mega-dairies significantly contribute to the climate crisis by discharging methane and other greenhouse gasses. Even methane digesters do nothing to reduce the other air emissions.

Water drawdown- A mega-dairy with 30,000 cows uses more water than the City of Bend. Our rivers, streams, and aquifers, especially in Eastern Oregon, cannot support that kind of water extraction.

Water Quality - The sheer amount of manure produced by mega dairies contaminates community water supplies and private wells with dangerous levels of nitrates. Existing state laws and regulations have failed to prevent this pollution.

Air Quality - Mega dairies are major contributors of ammonia, haze, and dangerous pollutants that harm health.

Sincerely