

Honorable Committee Members:

During my many years living in Oregon, I have become aware of the many problems associated with large dairy farms. The negative impact on the surrounding air & water quality and the great demand on the water supply come to mind..as do the problems surrounding workers' health and animal welfare. In the past few years, many dairy farms across the nation have been forced to close mainly for economic reasons as the demand for dairy products in the US is decreasing. Given all the negative aspects of operating dairies, especially in a fragile economic climate, it doesn't make good sense to permit new operations or to allow existing ones in our State to expand. Oregon's precious natural resources could and should be put to a better use. I urge you all to support SB 583 as it will benefit our State in both the short and the long term.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.