

My name is and I live in Portland. I am a professor of land use planning and my research focus is on farmland issues. I am writing in support of SB 583, which would enact a moratorium on new or expanding mega-dairies over 2,500 cows.

Oregon's largest mega-dairies are often situated in rural Latinx and Hispanic communities of color. It's long been shown nationwide that low income rural communities of color suffer disproportionate impacts from factory farms and mega-dairies in Oregon are no exception. No communities should suffer health harms for private profit.

A mega-dairy moratorium would halt the development of new mega-dairies, and prevent the expansion of existing ones. That means that a mega-dairy moratorium will at least ensure that this destructive method of dairy production doesn't spread further within our state and will give us an opportunity to address the existing harms from mega-dairies. Given the gaps in our laws, we need to do more to protect all Oregonians before it is too late.

Oregon needs urgent action to protect our state from the spread of mega-dairies. I/we urge you to support SB 583 and other legislative proposals for a mega-dairy moratorium.

Sincerely,
Megan Horst