



March 30, 2021

Dear Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Findley:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 583 related to so called 'Industrial Dairies.' Beef Northwest Feeders, LLC is a family-owned business based in North Powder, Oregon with additional Oregon based operations in Union, Wallowa, Malheur, Umatilla, and Morrow Counties. What began in the 1870s as the Wilson Cattle Company, Beef Northwest developed into a people-focused company where together we care for cattle and produce healthy beef for consumers in a responsible, sustainable way. Our like-minded team has a love for agriculture, progressive animal husbandry, environmental stewardship, and hard work. From administrative positions, to pen riders, to feed callers and everyone in-between, our commitment to our employees is unmatched in the industry.

Moreover, nature and healthy animals are at the core of our family business. Our commitment to those values is constantly on display. Not only does Beef Northwest Feeders strive to be the most environmentally friendly and ecologically stewardship focused company it can be, but it has been recognized for those commitments by earning Certified Angus Beef's first annual Sustainability Commitment to Excellence Award in 2020 and Whole Foods Market's 2016 Supplier of the Year. We achieved this recognition by creating rigorous processes for managing our inputs and outflows to ensure we responsibly and sustainably produce quality beef for customers all over the country.

We have serious concerns regarding the broad definition of what constitutes an 'industrial dairy.' The definition in the legislation states that an 'industrial dairy means a concentrated animal feeding operation or confined animal feeding operation that has at least 2,500 cows.' We believe that this could be interpreted to include all cattle, dairy, beef, or otherwise. We also object to the notion that large operations are somehow less sustainable or otherwise, a bigger risk to Oregon's environment. That could not be further from the truth. A farm, dairy, or cattle operation should be judged on its values, demonstrated commitments and overall record of compliance – not an arbitrary number or size perpetuated by those that do not know or understand animals or agriculture. For those reasons, we oppose SB 583.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Zach Wilson
Beef Northwest Feeders