

I write to request the Committee's support for SB 583. While there are many arguments that can be made against large scale dairy operations, ranging from concerns for environmental quality, worker conditions and public health, I feel the most compelling argument is on behalf of the cows themselves. It is particularly heartbreaking to think of the thousands of cows who have their babies taken from them in order to supply their milk to humans who do not need it. While many people consume dairy products without taking the time to look into the production process, those of us who have seen behind the scenes are disturbed by the conditions these animals are forced to live in. As our society works to advance in our just treatment of the other species we share this planet with, large scale dairy operations are the kinds of facilities we should be saying no to. I urge all members of the Committee to lend their support to this bill and vote to pass it out of committee. Thank you.