

I am submitting my testimony in support of SB-583. As a concerned and informed constituent of the State of Oregon, I vehemently support SB-583. While animal welfare concerns alone are enough to pass this bill, there are numerous other reasons to support the ban of new construction and expansion of industrial dairy complexes in Oregon.

Having lived in Oregon for six years now, one of the things I am most proud of in this state is our supreme respect and attention to Oregon's beautiful natural resources. Oregon's water supply would be put at risk should this bill not pass and dairy companies allowed to compromise our precious water supply.

The amount of waste produced by dairy cows alone could disrupt and pollute our water supply. This pollution could negatively affect not only water but air quality as well.

The life of a dairy cow is not the grazing green pastures often depicted in our society. Dairy cows are abused and exploited as commodities and not the sentient, feeling and loving creatures they are. Newborn baby calves are taken from their mothers so we can consume their milk. An Oregon that willingly allows this to continue and thrive is not the Oregon I know and respect.

Any free thinking individual with a modicum of respect and empathy for others can acknowledge the atrocities that industrial dairy farming wreaks on our society. This is why I strongly support bill SB-583 and urge everyone to vote accordingly.

Thank you for your time,  
Tracy Somervell