



**Marion County**  
OREGON

Board of Commissioners

April 1, 2021

(503) 588-5212  
(503) 588-5237-FAX

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair  
Senator Lynn Findley, Vice Chair  
Member of the Committee on Energy and Environment

**BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

**RE: Marion County Opposition to SB583**

Kevin Cameron, Chair  
Danielle Bethell  
Colm Willis

Dear Chair Beyer, Vice Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee:

**CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER**

The Marion County Boards of Commissioners oppose SB 583. The bill would prohibit dairy farms who are in compliance with all state requirements from expanding over 2,500 cows.

Jan Fritz

SB 583 limits a farmer's ability to expand their operations and brings undue restriction on those operating at current regulations. The current process to expand under Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) is transparent, has opportunities for anyone to ask questions, be engaged in the process, and has oversight from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Marion County is one of the largest dairy counties in Oregon with 21 working farms. Many of these farms have been owned and operated by the same families for generations. By adding more regulation to an already heavily regulated industry you can impact the lives of families in Marion County who may have already been harmed by COVID-19, wildfires, or the most recent ice storm. Limiting a dairy farms ability to adjust to market and industry trends could force these farms out of business.

Dairy producers hold a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grade A Milk License, requiring regular inspections by Oregon Department of Agriculture and USDA to ensure milk quality and safety. In addition, dairy's producers comply or partner with various agencies and organizations including Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, USDA's National Resources

Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other public and private organizations and certification systems.

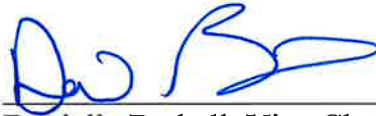
The Marion County Board of Commissioners urges the committee to oppose SB 583. This bill will limit the ability of local farmers to carry out their dairy operations after a year of unforeseen hardships.

Sincerely,

Marion County Board of Commissioners



Kevin Cameron, Chair



Danielle Bethell, Vice Chair



Colm Willis, Commissioner

CC: Marion County Legislative Delegation