



**Testimony in Support for SB 583**

April 1, 2021

Chairman Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment.

Thank you for providing this opportunity today to speak in support of SB 583. My name is Khanh Pham, Representative for House District 46. I represent Northeast and Southeast Portland, including the Jade District, Montavilla, Mt Tabor, Foster-Powell, Lents, and Laurelhurst neighborhoods.

I co-sponsored HB 2924, the mega-dairy moratorium legislation in the House because I believe that it is necessary to protect our communities from the dire impacts of climate change, ensure private property is not put before the health and well being of our communities, and support thriving communities across the state.

We know that mega-dairies are a significant contributor to our climate crisis, and that the negative impacts of climate change will disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Already, we've seen climate- fueled disasters upend our state from the recent wildfires to dangerous ice storms. We need to be on the forefront of passing legislation that combats climate change and moves us closer to environmental justice. Expanding mega-dairies in Oregon, will not move us closer to that goal. I support this legislation, because it will have positive and preventative benefits for my constituents and our entire state.

We already have expended countless resources, from tax dollars to regulation enforcement actions to check the pollution of mega-dairies with little success. As we see from the decades-long drinking water contamination in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area, existing state laws and regulations have not prevented the pollution either. As a result, those closest to the largest facilities in Eastern Oregon are living with contaminated drinking wells and health impacts that come from nitrate pollution in the groundwater.

Those closest to this pollution are predominantly situated in rural Latinx and communities of color. Similar to the impacts of climate change, it has long been shown nationwide that low income rural communities of color suffer disproportionate impacts from factory farms and mega-dairies. Communities in Oregon are no exception. This is a warning sign of what is to come in communities across our state if we do not introduce and enforce stronger regulations.

It is essential that we center the experiences of those most directly impacted by the pollution of factory farms. I urge your support on legislation that creates a moratorium on factory farms. Thank you.