

Submitter: Arie deJong

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Senate Committee On Natural Resources,

Our family operates an organic dairy farm in South eastern Oregon. From our 5 children, 4 are actively involved and are very interested in continuing our dairy farm. We take pride in producing a high quality product, organic milk, while taking optimal care of our animals and the land and providing a healthy and opportune work environment for our employees. The majority of our employees have worked with us for over 15 years.

As an (organic) dairy farm we have inspections throughout the year from the Oregon Department of Ag, our organic certifier, non-gmo group and last but not least from validus (animal welfare). I am happy to say we are in compliance on all fronts.

Over the years we have focused on producing high quality feed for our cows. We are able to utilize all the manure we produce on our dairy and work closely with experts on tillage practices, soil testing and crop rotation. We also have invested in our irrigation systems and manure application systems to optimize manure application to all our fields by using manure vacuums and manure tankers.

Our current milk buyer sees Oregon as the future producer of organic milk because of the high quality milk produced. High quality milk is only possible if you take extremely good care of you animals and produce good feed which equals to taking care of the environment.

We ask you not to move forward with SB 85. SB 85 and the -1 amendment propose a ban on renewing or obtaining new CAFO permits for some operations. SB 85 will increase food costs and our reliance on out of state products. It would impact not only our dairy farm, but dairy farms, beef feedlots, egg and poultry farms and other key components of our food supply chain. In Oregon we have one of the most robust regulatory programs in the country, with an incredibly high compliance rate. Regulations come with a cost, the permit is minor in comparison with the investment in infrastructure and time to manage, monitor and record applications. Currently we're already losing dairy farms due to the high cost of doing business in Oregon. There has to be the flexibility to grow and expand when neighbors lose their farms in order to keep family farms in production. Loosing dairy farms also has far reaching consequences for the communities they are a part of.

We want to able to provide a sustainable dairy farm for our children. They enjoy the

dairy farm, but will be looking at alternatives outside of Oregon if dairy farming in Oregon becomes non-sustainable.

We appreciate your consideration in advance.

Best Regards,
Arie deJong