



**SB 1507A Testimony
House Revenue Committee
Representative Phil Barnhart, Chair**

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Salem, OR**

February 29, 2016

Chair Barnhart and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Kendra Kimbirauskas and I am the Chief Executive Officer for the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project. I am here today because in 2007 I was appointed by Governor Kulongoski, along with 14 other citizens representing public health and sustainable agriculture organizations, environmental groups, state agencies and legislators to the Dairy Air Quality Task Force (DAQTF). I oppose the inclusion the manure digester tax credit extension in SB 1507.

In learning about SB 1507A, I have reviewed testimony from the Threemile Canyon Farms and the Dairy Farmers of Oregon in support of SB 1507A and I feel I have to provide some historical context to set the record straight.

The DAQTF spent over six months deliberating to find consensus from diverse stakeholders as to the best way to address emissions from large-scale dairy confinement operations, like Threemile Canyon Farms' 55,000 dairy cows. This came after a heated legislative battle, where the dairy industry and Threemile were working hard to exempt agriculture from having to comply with the state's air rules at a time where Threemile's ammonia gas was contributing to acid rain in the eastern end of the Columbia River Gorge.

After many months of work, I felt that we as task force came together and were able to come up with a reasonable compromise plan for how the state agencies would work together to address the variety of concerns surrounding emissions from mega dairies.

The recommendations that we put forward were that the Environmental Quality Commission, working with The Oregon Department of Agriculture, The Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Human Services, develop a Dairy Air Quality Program. The program was to be both voluntary and regulatory in nature and to incentivize

best management practices. We agreed that one provision of this program would be to provide tax credits for operations that took steps to mitigate their air emissions.

After the completion of our report and after it was presented to the Legislature in 2008, Threemile Canyon Farms and others went to work to ensure that the program never be implemented. This is why I find it absolutely absurd that both organizations have submitted testimony alleging that SB 1507A would be in accordance with the recommendations of the DAQTF.

We should not be allowing Threemile and others to urge you to cherry pick pieces from the report that would benefit mega dairies without adopting other elements that would address other aspects of the program such as the environmental and public health concerns with dairy emissions.

While the -19 Amendment is certainly better than previous amendments, methane digesters only address methane gas from decomposing waste. Other gases such as Hydrogen Sulfide, Carbon Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide and Ammonia unaffected. Ironically, Ammonia, the gas that was the center of the legislative debate that kicked off the DAQTF remains unaffected by methane digesters as well.

Further, I have heard through a number of channels that there is an active recruitment campaign taking place that Threemile and the Dairy Farmers of Oregon are engaged in to attract more mega dairy operations to Oregon. Not only will this continue to drive smaller producers out of business, it will further compromise clean air and water in our state.

We should under no circumstance extending a tax credit to mega operations without ensuring that adequate provisions are in place to protect, local communities, public health and the environment from the pollution that comes from these industrial factory farms.

I am urging you to not support SB 1507A. I think this discussion is one that warrants a bigger conversation about implementing the Dairy Air Program in its entirety as was outlined by the hard work of the DAQTF in 2007. I would welcome getting the "old gang" back together and moving forward to seeing our recommendations fully implemented by the Legislature in 2017.

Thank you.