

## Watts Remy

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**From:** Victoria Ruddy <vruddy@ufw.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2019 8:11 AM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Written Testimony SB103 and SB104

Dear Chair Dembrow,

What's wrong with Senate Bills 103 and 104? **Penalizing farms solely on their size is just PLAIN WRONG.** The consequence of SB 103 and SB 104 is that it will HARM farm workers who receive premium pay, benefits and family health insurance while not improving the environment.

For twelve years the UFW represented workers at Threemile Canyon Farms have enjoyed wages and benefits many farm workers rarely get, including job advancement and education opportunities, health, paid holidays and paid time off benefits, just to name a few.

Over the past 20 years, Threemile has proven itself as a responsible, civic and community minded industry leader. In addition to the employment benefits, some of the positive impacts to our economy, environment, and way of life include:

- Threemile through its union contract with the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan provides coverage to UFW members and their families - probably the only private health insurance that does so for farm workers in the state of Oregon with a very low annual deductible for the worker's family.
- Threemile is an environmental leader operating on a closed loop system, meaning they use, reuse, or recycle almost everything it produces to the benefit of our natural resources.
- An onsite digester pulls methane gas from manure which improves air quality and powers the farm with clean energy.
- Threemile voluntarily surrendered some of their Columbia River water rights to protect the region's in-stream water flows.
- The farm set aside 23,000 acres, nearly a quarter of the farm, as a conservation area to protect upland habitat for sensitive species. The combination of crop and milk production means they actively recycle nutrient-rich dairy manure into natural fertilizer and compost, using substantially less commercial fertilizer and growing more certified organic vegetables and grains.
- Threemile has a strong commitment to assist young Oregonians to develop careers as agricultural professionals, including scholarship aid and help guiding Oregon youth into agriculture career positions.
- Employee participation in local community events and causes that enhance quality of life.
- Monthly donation of 8,000 pounds of ground beef to Farmers Ending Hunger for distribution to non-profits including the Oregon Food Bank.
- Support for the Boardman volunteer fire district, Boardman medical center, Boardman childcare center, the American Red Cross, local high school programs and activities, 4-H, FFA, and more.

UFW urges you not to discriminate against a responsible farm in Oregon agriculture and Oregon business. Please Say "No" to SB 103 and 104.

Sincerely,

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