

Watts Remy

From: Becky Haddad <becky.haddad@oregonstate.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:43 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Hearing on SB 103 & 104

Dear Chair Dembrow,

I'm writing to discuss SB 103 and 104 relative to the negative implications such a bill poses for both the dairy and agriculture industries of Oregon. As a former dairy farmer from the Midwest, I think it's important to recognize the crisis posed to dairy farms is not the result of any one culprit. Farm size, stewardship, regulation/oversight, and consumer preference, among many other issues make it difficult to be in farming right now.

The targets of the proposed legislation seem to specifically focus on the size of farms. This is an unfair categorization relative to the environmental impact of any given farm. Stewardship, not size, is a much greater indicator of the environmental impact of a farm. Dairymen across the nation are strongly concerned with their environmental footprint. Caring for their land and animals is of utmost concern; do not limit the ways in which farmers are able to do this.

Size is also not an indicator of the family connections of a given operation. Many of Oregon's large dairies have been in families for generations. Milk prices are low, regulatory burdens are high, and the cost of production rises by the day. Do not punish families operating at the individually sustainable scale necessary to maintain their business.

Third, shifting farm land zoning to an industrial designation exacerbates a global problem relative to the land available for agricultural production. While the debate of hunger caused by shortage or distribution is for another time, it is important to recognize that farmland is decreasing across the world. Don't turn Oregon dairymen into a statistic of fragmented farms and diminishing space. This only requires farmers to produce more on the land they have; a vicious cycle if regulatory oversight also limits production on that space.

That said, these bills set dangerous precedent for Oregon agriculture. Limiting the size, scale, and types of farms allowed in state drive production elsewhere as they limit farmers' ability to adjust to market pressures, utilize the practices that best fit their operations, and transition between crops and scale of operation as needed to stay afloat. Oregon's farms and ranches support rural communities, protect wildlife habitat and water quality, and protect open space. Please vote NO on SB 103 & 104.

-Becky

Sincerely,

Becky Haddad
4891 SW Aster St
Corvallis, OR 97333
becky.haddad@oregonstate.edu