

## Watts Remy

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**From:** Lewis Batchelder <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 7:34 AM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** SB 103 and 104

Dear Chair Dembrow,

I am owner of a family farm near Portland. This farm has been in my family for more than 150 years and I plan to pass it on to my grandson. While I am not a dairy farmer, my grandfather and my father were. I started out intending to be one, majoring in dairy technology at OSU but soon learned that unless I could expand the herd beyond the capabilities of my land the economics would not work. However a few of my friends were able to do so and operate large dairies that are a family tradition. I can tell you they are struggling but certainly are conscientious about their responsibilities to the environment and their neighbors. I can tell you, my fellow farmers and ranchers are doing their part to protect the environment and support the health and well-being of their herds and neighbors. These dairy farmers are some of the most forward thinking in the nation.

The dairy farms that would be impacted by this proposal are largely family organized operations, who have farmed in Oregon for generations. With milk prices at an all-time low and regulatory burdens at an all-time high, for a dairy to support a family network, the dairy must exist on a larger scale.

These bills also undermine Oregon's land use planning system. This bill would make farming the land on these dairies not a farm use. This industrial designation – paired with the loss of right to farm protections - would jeopardize the farm and the associated farmland and make it infinitely more likely that the land would be sold to a non-farm use, creating the patchwork of uses in the farm zone that the land use planning system seeks to avoid.

These bills set a very dangerous precedent in Oregon. As soon as the legislature starts dictating what size, scale, and type of farms we can have in the state, it undermines growers' ability to adjust to market pressures, utilize the practices that best work for 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. Any restrictions on the ability of farms to operate in the state at the size and scale needed to support their families and community would put all of Oregon agriculture at risk.

Please vote NO on SB 103 and SB 104.

Sincerely,

Lewis Batchelder  
26245 NW West Union Rd  
Hillsboro, OR 97124  
lwbatchelder@aol.com