



To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Re: SB 103

Dear Senator Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

I am the current acting president of the Northwest Farmers Union. We advocate for the economic and social well-being, and quality of life of family farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and consumers and their communities through education cooperation, and legislation. I am also a beekeeper in Southern Oregon, and am reliant on floral rich pastures, a common practice of small family-run dairies.

I am writing to commend the Oregon legislature for taking up the issue with mega-dairies in Oregon. As you know, dairies are in crisis across the US. Profitable family farms are being threatened by mega-dairies. Mega dairies are not only bad for the economics of Oregon dairy, but an increasing number in Oregon could contribute to the oversupply of milk on the national market, furthering the economic hardship for independent family dairies across the country.

We need to protect our dairies, who contribute to their local rural economies, local pollinator health through well-managed pasture, and have been a pillar of agriculture in our state. We should be doing everything in our power to ensure the longevity of family dairy production in our country, instead concentrating the milk market into the hands of a few dairy processors. A moratorium on new mega dairies until an economic analysis of their impact on family dairy production is a step in the right direction, especially during this time of extreme crisis for our country's family dairies.

I fully support SB 103 and a moratorium on mega-dairies in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration on this pressing issue,

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Bee Girl Organization, Executive Director
Western Apicultural Society, President
Northwest Farmers Union, Acting President
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