

Watts Remy

From: N A**** <trixtrax@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:17 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: SB 103 Testimony

Senator Dembrow and members of the committee:

Hope this letter meets you doing well. This is my thoughts around SB 103. My name is Chris Homanics and help manage Queener Farm, an organically grown apple orchard and also own Head, Hands, Heart - a wholesale nursery company near Stayton. I am also a board member of Home Orchard Society, which for 45 years, we have been running fruit tree propagation events in Portland to promote local tree fruit production. Finally, as a co-founder of the Agrarian Sharing Network we're engaged in promoting tree culture and sharing targeted fruit diversity throughout our bioregion with a focus on rural communities from Redmond, WA to Williams, OR. I see the day-to-day real impact on the quality-of-life of people in rural communities by supporting small farm initiatives.

The Local family-run dairy segment of the industry has long been in a free-fall nationally while consolidation into mega-farm dairies continues unabated. This is a trend we must turn around for the people, land, and our future. Large agri-business typically does not fully vest it's interests in the communities they operate in. Supporting small local farm initiatives is a boon to local state economies including tourism activities bringing much needed revenue into depressed small towns. As a state, let's take the lead on this front!

What we should ask is not "Can this model grow food this year?", but rather, "Can this model be replicated on forever into the future without degrading the land?" Instead, let's promote regenerative agricultural practices and farm operations that preserve and increase biodiversity holdings of private lands, protect water quality, and make the land more fertile by improving tith. Please pass this moratorium on these large dairy operations that pollute the land and let's as a state focus on supporting small producers for a more sustainable future.

Your consideration of this matter is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chris Homanics
Linn County, Oregon