

SB 103 and 104 3-21-19 Senate Hearing

Chair, Dembrow and committee members, for the record, my name is Robert Kircher and we have a dairy farm in Dayton, Oregon. We milk about 1800 jersey cows on two separate farms and employ about 40 full time men and women. A couple years ago we wanted to expand and milk more cows, To do this we had to hire an dairy consulting engineer to write a plan on how we would manage the manure for these extra cows. The manure management plan was then submitted to Oregon Department of Agriculture's CAFO program for review and approval, once approved it was then submitted for public hearing. This process took about 9 months to complete. We invested around \$300,000 dollars in developing the plan, purchasing manure equipment and constructing storage facilities to manage this extra manure. Maintaining and running all of this equipment costs thousands of dollars every month. Today we and many other farms export millions of gallons of manure every year to grass seed farmers around the valley, many farmers including us have realized the value of manure and its fertility for the crops we grow. We are all inspected by CAFO every 10 months to ensure we are managing manure correctly and not overloading the land with excess nutrients.

We take manure management very seriously we have invested heavily into animal manure management to stay in compliance with the CAFO program. We do not support Senate Bill 103 and 104. We already have several regulations that cost us a lot of money to stay in compliance with.

We do not support Senate Bill 876 because it duplicates what Oregon Department of Agriculture is currently doing, we do not need more regulations. In today's dairy industry with low milk prices it's a struggle just to stay in business.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Robert Kircher
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