

Erika Norris
P.O. Box 129
Beatty, Oregon 97621

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 28, 2019
Re: SB 791

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

There are plenty of folks here to discuss the laws and the facts. I figured I'd better leave all that to them. I'd like to introduce you to who it is that's being given such a raw deal that we need this bill. Who are we? We are local, sustainable agriculture run on family power, not corporate investors. To us, the stock market involves a loading chute and a sale yard. We do what we do because we love the land. We love our cows—well, most of them anyway. We love the grass blowing in the wind, the smell of a pine tree on a hot afternoon. We love the dance of the Sandhill cranes, the call of Canadian geese, antelope grazing with the cows, the sight of newborn calves learning how to run, bald eagles in aerial combat in the sky. I have a lake on my place where the Audubon Society counted over 90 species of birds in half a day. We want our kids and grandkids to see this, to be a part of this life, to carry these traditions forward. We're in it for the future, not for the fast buck.

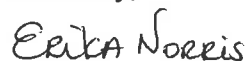
We aren't paid to be here. We're the ones who got up way too early this morning to make the drive to ask simply for fairness, because that's who we are. We have folks at home picking up the slack for us so we can be here today. We put in a full day's work every day and we appreciate others who work hard to be fair-minded and just. I hope I never find out how hard it is to be on a senate committee!

We aren't asking for charity. We absolutely don't want a handout. We just want to be treated fairly. We don't want to bother others, we don't want to misuse our resources, but we sure don't want anyone destroying everything we've worked to build if we aren't doing them any harm. Isn't that only fair?

We are the working women and men. We are veterans, taxpayers, and voters who care about our livestock, our environment, our neighbors and our community. We are small business and family farms. We are fresh and local, natural and organic. Right now we're struggling against our own government to be sustainable. We're the faces behind the booths at the Farmer's Market. We supply wholesome food to our local schools.

We're not a corporation. We're not a commune of unwashed, rabid outsiders. We're family. We're community. We're proud of what we do and what we contribute to our neighbors, our state, and our country. We are everything politicians claim to stand for at election time. Now is the time to stand up in deed and in fact. Please support SB 791.

Sincerely,



Erika Norris
Sprague River Valley