

Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

I am a constituent of Sen. Taylor, and I am very concerned about the potential growth of mega-dairies in Oregon. I am writing in support of SB 583, which would enact a moratorium on new or expanding mega-dairies over 2,500 cows.

Mega-dairies are a threat to both water quality and quantity in Oregon. The quantity of water used by a mega-dairy can not be supported in the long term by rivers, streams and aquifers, especially in Eastern Oregon. Also the amount of manure produced results in leaching into groundwater which can contaminate community water supplies and destroy homes and lives of those living in the area. Property is worthless without water.

We also need think about protecting the next generation of family farmers in Oregon. Mega-dairies will drive small farms out of business (and they have) with cheap products. I see smaller farmers as really beginning to make a come-back and we need to support this.

There are many other reasons to support SB 583. I know there are groups/people with lots of money whose only motivation is to make more who want to grow mega-dairies. These are not the people with the long term interest of Oregonians in their hearts.

Thank you,  
Veronica Poklemba  
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