

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
From: Jeanne Roy, 6805 SW 12th Ave, Portland, OR 97219
Date: April 1, 2021
Subject: SB 583 - Relating to industrial dairies; declaring an emergency – Support

Oregon has let our environment and ag workers suffer too much from the impact of mega-dairies. In 2018, Lost Valley Farms Dairy in Boardman was charged with violating environmental rules more than 200 times in a year and a half, polluting the air and drinking water of the surrounding area. It cost \$200,000 for the state to track and fight problems at Lost Valley, and it took regulators a year to shut it down. The following year, Hogan Dairy Farms in Tillamook was cited after its manure digester malfunctioned, causing 30,000 to 40,000 gallons of waste to flood neighboring properties and enter the water systems that eventually run into Tillamook Bay.

The state must focus on prevention rather than waiting until damage has already been done. A moratorium on construction or expansion should be placed on industrial dairies in Oregon until the environmental and health impacts are thoroughly studied.

A major concern is the impact on water quality. Wastewater can result in excessive nitrates in drinking water, risking public health, and may also include pathogens such as E. coli, cryptosporidium, and salmonella. Manure storage on such factory farms emits ammonia, hydrogen sulfate, and particulate matter. Workers in these facilities experience high levels of asthma-like symptoms, bronchitis, and other respiratory diseases. Due to their scale, mega dairies also emit large amounts of methane, worsening global warming.

The issue definitely warrants emergency action. I urge you to pass SB 583 out of committee with a do-pass recommendation.