

I have already submitted my testimony in favor of this bill, SB 583, but am concerned it does not go far enough. This bill references only the dairy industry and there are other industries which are equally dangerous to people and animals, water, and land. Imminently, a company called Foster Farms in California, is looking to move its poultry industry to Oregon where the regulatory laws are much more lax than in California. You need to add a clause to SB538 that prohibits the licensing of ANY polluting industry from receiving license to operate in Oregon.

The damage to human health and resources always falls first and worst on the people who have already been the recipients of discriminatory and bad policy for hundreds of years. We call this Environmental Injustice. To your shame and discredit, we already have far too many examples of this in Oregon. The Departments of Environmental Quality and Agriculture, respectively and collectively, are responsible to the People of Oregon to protect our health through regulation of and elimination of harms to us all. Do we have foxes guarding the henhouse here?

There is absolutely no justification on any grounds whatsoever for allowing any polluting industries to come to Oregon. On the contrary, we need to be make stronger rules and regulations and begin eliminating all factory farming on the basis I have just described. I purchase all my food from local farmers who are able to make a comfortable living by raising animals humanely. What has passed as "common sense" since the corporations started making the rules is not only not common sense, it is immoral, inhumane and ignorant. The suggestion that factory farms and mega-dairies are the providers of jobs is like saying being paid to be the target at a firing range is a good job. We are not fooled. Although sometimes we are desperate enough to take these killer jobs to support our families since legislators make laws that keep wages at starvation levels and prohibit unionizing. Do I sound angry? Yes. Many of us are angry. We know you do not have the power except that which is vested in you by us. Do your jobs for US. Do not add to the unrest by furthering racial and social injustice. Family farmers have a right not to have to suffer any of the myriad consequences of mega-dairies and factory-farmed chickens in our communities. Support Oregonians.