



April 1, 2021

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

My name is Obdulia Munoz, I am a Board member and have lived in Umatilla for the past 32 years. In the past, I've picked strawberries and potatoes and now work as a social services professional with migrant parents and families in Umatilla and Morrow counties helping them get food, clothing, and resources throughout the year.

My name is Ana Maria Rodriguez, I am also a Board member and I have lived in Boardman for 11 years. My husband and I are agricultural workers and we're raising our 3 children who work and are going to school.

Oregon Rural Action Oregon is a 501(c)(3) rural grassroots and culturally diverse membership-based organization in eastern Oregon working to promote social justice, agricultural and economic sustainability, and the stewardship of Oregon's land, air, and water. Through community organizing, we harness the resources, strengths, and leadership of the rural region's diverse people and communities to build sustainability.

We are writing in support of SB 583, which would enact a moratorium on new or expanding mega-dairies over 2,500 cows in Oregon.

A mega-dairy moratorium would give us an opportunity to address the ongoing and long-term impact of industrial agriculture and large corporate dairies on our water, air, and the long-term health in our rural communities in Morrow and Umatilla counties.

Our families and communities have already lived with 3 decades of water pollution from corporate agriculture. Our land is dry and sandy. Nitrates from irrigators and mega-dairies have polluted our water. Some cities have spent money to treat the water. But there are people who do not have extra money to buy bottled or purified water, and they drink well water, which is contaminated.

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy in this area. We need jobs. But we should not have to continue to choose between good-paying jobs and harm to our water, air, and our health. It is time that the residents of this area receive the same consideration and protection that other Oregonians receive. If this situation were occurring in more populated areas of Oregon it would have been corrected.

We are requesting your help to protect our drinking water, air, and the long-term health of Eastern Oregon's rural communities from increasing contamination from industrial agriculture including mega-dairies. This pollution hurts us on top of the climate crisis, the wildfires of this past year, and now the COVID-19. The pandemic has also disproportionately impacted our communities. We've each had COVID including our family members and some of our neighbors.

We urge you to support SB 583 and other legislative proposals for a mega-dairy moratorium.

Sincerely,

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