

March 31, 2021

RE: SB 583:CAFO Permit Legislation Hearing

To Whom it May Concern:

Senate Bill 583 is written broadly enough that it incorporates all CAFO permit holders with 2,500 head or more of cattle. This will greatly affect us! Our families homesteaded and have lived in Jefferson County since the 1890's. We have seen a lot of changes and not all of them good. In 2004 we started building a cattle feeding facility in Madras from the ground up and followed all the requirements set to us by the state. Every year we keep track of the manure used as fertilizer and exported; soil/water testing; and daily weather. We built a lagoon to catch water runoff, so that no water leaves the property. An engineer designed it and the ground was tested for impaction so that nothing can leech into the soil or water table. DEQ and Oregon Department of Agriculture monitor us. They physically come and inspect the feedlot, making sure we are following all the regulations and our paperwork is in order.

We employ six full time people and three part time employees, who are like family to us. In our industry we take care of each other. We purchase feed from nearby farmers, which is getting harder because of the reduction in irrigation water. We also import feed. This helps the local economy and trucking industry. It brings people in to the area that purchase fuel, food, and lodging.

In a year we average about 10,000 head of cattle grown in our lot. According to a 2017 study, people eat an average of 56 pounds of beef a year. At slaughter an average beef animal weighs 1300 pounds which means we produce 13 million pounds of beef. Our small operation would feed 232,143 people yearly or to put it in other terms, we could supply beef to all residents of Deschutes and Jefferson Counties for a year.

The US has one of the strictest codes of animal health safety and disease control for beef cattle. Many countries that export beef to the United States do not have the same safeguards in place. Like Namibia for example, which the US has been importing beef from in the last year. They have an ongoing case of hoof and mouth in their cattle as we write. In 2020 the US exported 2.9 billion pounds of

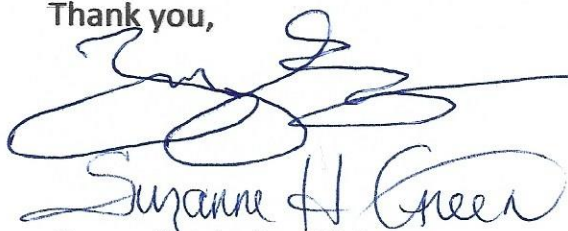
beef and cattle. However we imported 4.4 billion pounds. That means for every pound of beef exported, we imported over 1.5 pounds of beef. Consumers want to know where their food comes from. Do you know what to look for to make sure you are buying US produced beef? Because when you purchase imported beef you are exposing yourself to diseases (like mentioned above), what the animals are eating, and the vaccines used in those countries. To name a few diseases the US has eradicated are brucellosis, foot and mouth disease, and anthrax. These aren't gone from all the countries we import beef from. Again, consumers want to know where their food is produced.

Senator Dembrow is an educator and an advocate of education. It would be beneficial if he would look outside the box to educate himself and people where their food comes from. There are many components before it arrives at the grocery store. We feel that the Central and Eastern part of Oregon are misunderstood and overlooked on how we survive by our state government.

We hope that you realize there are already strict national and state rules/regulations that the beef industry closely follows. We are good stewards of the land and water because we **DEPEND** on it for cattle production and our livelihood. Every day we work on responsibly preserving water and land to find a balance between agriculture, wildlife and recreation. Please educate not litigate when it comes to the agricultural industry. A great way to do this is a program based in Central Oregon that focuses on educating people and communities on how your food gets from the farm to the table. It is "Perfect Balance—Environmentally Friendly Agriculture" produced by The Symons Beef Company. We encourage you to visit their website.

In closing we sincerely hope you'll vote no on SB 583.

Thank you,



Green Cattle Co., LLC

Tony & Samantha Green

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