

Leuthold Family Dairy

2425 McCormick Loop

Tillamook, Oregon, 97141

To: Oregon Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee Members:

Michael Dembrow

Alan Olsen

Herman Baertschiger Jr.

Floyd Prozanski

Arnie Roblan

Today at 1 pm, all of you are scheduled to convene and hear testimony on SB 197, also known to the dairy farmers as the "dairy air" bill.

My husband Dan and I had planned to be in Salem to share our thoughts with you. Unfortunately, events on the dairy this morning will not allow us to leave in time to make the hearing.

What we would like to say is: We are a small family operation, milking little more than 200 cows, with another 250 head of dry cows, heifers, and calves. Dan is the third generation of Swiss immigrant grandparents. Our son, Todd, along with Dan, and 2 hired workers, operates the dairy. I do all the financial bookwork. We have a grandson, aged 27 who wants sorely to be a part of the farm fulltime. He has three small sons and would like to raise them on the farm, as he was. We have been holding family meetings and are working endlessly to find a way to make that financially possible.

So, how will SB 197 affect us? Well, every generation of the Leuthold family has strived to be good stewards of the land and animals. We have been responsible and obedient, always complying with rules and regulations that are put upon us, although some not without arguing the point. This one, SB 197 is simply too much! There is absolutely no proof that Oregon dairy farms are damaging the air quality! We are recyclers, in that we use the manure (liquid and solid) to put back on our pastures as fertilizer instead of chemicals. We must admit that manure can have an odor, as do many other things! Strides have been made in the last several years to tone down the odor by putting additives in the manure tanks, by putting covers on top of the tanks, by using different methods of application to the pastures, and by the use of methane digesters. All of these practices have added a huge expense to Oregon dairies. In fact, the liquid manure from our dairy is pumped to a nearby digester and the effluent is returned to be applied.

Apparently there is an anti-dairy force out there wanting to cause us expense and more stress while we are working hard to produce great healthy, affordable, real food for all! By having to comply with an unnecessary mandate; and with milk prices what they are compared to our costs, it's needless to say:

We are asking you, honorable Senators of the committee, to please support Oregon dairy families by opposing SB 197! We need your help! Please disallow another regulatory burden to be placed upon us!

Sincere Thanks,

The Leuthold Family (leutholddairy@hotmail.com)

Carol Marie Leuthold (503-801-0961)