

EXHIBIT H

Letter from Brian Pacheco, dated April 23, 2015

ACLC R5-2016-0531 Sweeney Submission of Evidence

Brian Pacheco
20019 W. Belmont Avenue
Kerman, CA 93630

April 23, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as a character reference for Jim Sweeney.

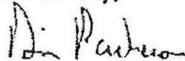
I am a 47 year-old dairyman and have known Jim for most of my life. I first became acquainted with Jim when I was a member of the Future Farmers of America. The Kerman FFA Chapter did not have a dairy cattle judging team and my instructor contacted another chapter and found out that Jim was coaching their team. At the time, Jim was the manager of a dairy in Fresno County and graciously let me participate with the other team.

Through hard work and perseverance, Jim has accomplished the American dream. He has worked his way up from a laborer to manager, to now a small business owner.

A short time ago, a mutual friend of ours committed suicide. I was asked to help run the family dairy until it could be sold. I immediately contacted Jim and asked for his help. Again, he generously accepted and helped me during this difficult time.

Jim Sweeney has an excellent reputation in the dairy industry. He is a man of integrity and is well respected among his peers. He is an honest, hardworking individual who will go the extra mile for those in need. I am glad to know Jim Sweeney and proud to call him my friend.

Sincerely,



Brian Pacheco

EXHIBIT I

Letter from John van Curen, dated April 24, 2015

ACLC R5-2016-0531 Sweeney Submission of Evidence

OLD WEST RANCH COMPANY
Business Consulting – Receivership Support Services
4539 North Brawley Avenue, Ste 105
Fresno, California 93722
Tel (559) 275-9482 – Fax (559) 275-8786

April 24, 2015

Mr. Karl E. Longley
CVRWQCB
1685 E. Street
Fresno, CA 93706

RE: Jim and Amelia Sweeney

Dear Mr. Longley:

My name is John Van Curen. I am the President and owner of Old West Ranch Company, a company specializing in insolvency proceedings, both in State and federal courts in California. For over 30 years, I personally have served as a court-appointed Receiver in numerous state and federal court proceedings and as a Chapter 11 trustee in several federal court bankruptcy proceedings. My receivership work primarily involves agricultural enterprises, including numerous dairies in the Central Valley of California.

I have known Jim Sweeney as a friend and business associate for over 20 years.

My continuing business association with Mr. Sweeney involves utilizing his expertise as a dairyman and judgment as a businessman in analyzing and evaluating distressed dairy operations in fulfillment of my duties as a Receiver. In the many years that I have been involved with him, I have found Jim to be a man of unassailable character and integrity, who provides expert and honest evaluations and opinions that I can rely upon in the fulfillment of my duties.

During the time I have known Jim, he and his wife Amelia have owned and operated a 300 cow dairy near Visalia, California and raised a family of three children, all of whom have either completed or are pursuing college educations including in some cases post-graduate studies. Anyone who is acquainted with the family will observe that Jim and Amelia live by the highest principles and have inculcated those values into the lives of their children.

In conclusion, I unreservedly vouch for Jim's honesty and integrity and believe that whatever actions he takes in life will be guided by those principles.

Sincerely yours,


John Van Curen

EXHIBIT J

Letter from Jim Sullins, dated April 29, 2015

ACLC R5-2016-0531 Sweeney Submission of Evidence

® **University of California**
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension
Tulare County **UC**
CE

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April 29, 2015

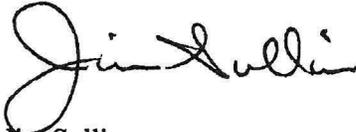
To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jim Sullins. I am the Director of Tulare/Kings County Cooperative Extension, University of California, Ag and Natural Resources.

I have known Jim Sweeney in a professional capacity for the last 15 years. I have visited Mr. Sweeney's operation with Regional Water Quality board member Sopy Tomkins and also attended meetings at his request with Regional Water Quality Executive Officer Pamela Creedon and staff member, Clay Rodgers at their office in Fresno.

Mr. Sweeney has attempted to resolve water quality permit issues with the Regional Quality Board with success and to my knowledge has been very professional and ethical in all of his actions.

Sincerely,



Jim Sullins
County Director
Tulare/Kings

EXHIBIT K

“Model for Sustainability,” Hoard’s Dairyman, April 10, 2015

ACLC R5-2016-0531 Sweeney Submission of Evidence

April 10, 2015

est input of pesticide and fertilizer per acre, would we say that country has a highly sustainable food production system?

Yes, we'd nearly all agree on that.

So which of these countries currently holds that status — New Zealand, Switzerland, Ireland, Brazil, or China? None of these hold that status. It is the United States of America.

In its most recent report, the World Bank shows that the U.S. ranked 63rd on amount of fertilizer applied per acre of arable land among all nations. The U.S. applied an average of 117 pounds per acre (131 kilograms per hectare) of total fertilizer per acre of arable land annually from 2010 to 2014. Meanwhile, the top 10 countries averaged 2,015 pounds per acre (2,300 kg/hectare) — about 18 times more than the amount applied by U.S. farmers. This data is available at <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.CON.FERT.ZS/countries>.

When it comes to application of pesticide, the U.S. ranked low, as well. A 2012 report showed that the U.S. ranked 44th in pesticide use among 119 countries. The U.S. applied an average of 1.5 pounds of active ingredient per acre (1.7 kg/hectare) compared to 53 pounds per acre (63 kg/hectare) for the highest country. There were 13 European countries that used more per acre than the U.S. Among the world's highest income countries, 25 of 38 used more pesticide per acre than U.S. farmers. Pesticide use per acre continues to decline as American farmers adopt precision agriculture technologies. These data points are available at: Food Policy 37 (2012), pages 616 to 626.

Want to feed the world's growing population with sustainable food production? Look at farmers in the U.S. for the model of how to do this. They practice sustainability every day.

NORTH CAROLINA JACK BRITT

Model for sustainability

If a country had among the Earth's highest output per acre for its food and feed crops and among the low-

These columns are open to the readers of *Hoard's Dairyman* for the expression of their opinions on current issues of direct interest to dairy farmers. With the exception of letters promoting religious creeds, proprietary products, farm organizations, or political groups, the editors welcome readers' views on all subjects. Letters should be 250 words or less. The right is reserved to select and abstract letters to be published. Unsigned letters will not be printed, but names will be withheld on request. You may send letters to *Hoard's Dairyman*, P.O. Box 801, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 or you may email them to editors@hoards.com.

EXHIBIT L

“Two Major Dairy States Aren’t Ag Friendly,” Hoard’s Dairyman, May 27, 2014

ACLC R5-2016-0531 Sweeney Submission of Evidence



HOARD'S DAIRYMAN

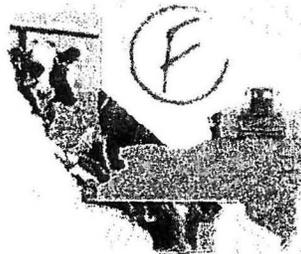
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HOARD'S DAIRYMAN

Two major dairy states aren't ag friendly

by Corey Geiger, Managing Editor

When Colorado State University professors Greg Perry and James Pritchett set out to create the first-ever Agribusiness Friendliness Index, they didn't know how each of the nation's 50 states would eventually shake out on the list. However, in reviewing the final product, their first-ever ranking has two of our nation's top three dairy states ranked second from the bottom and dead last.



At number 49 on the Agribusiness Friendliness Index is the nation's third-largest dairy state, New York. The only state ranking lower was the nation's largest milk producer, California. Both states received a letter grade of F for working with agriculture. The only other top 10 dairy state to rank that low was New Mexico, coming in at 46 on the list.

In creating the ranking, the Colorado State University ag economists set out to mirror the popular State Business Tax Climate Index. In doing so, Perry and Pritchett included 38 variables representing regulatory and tax policy, government efficiency, impact of key government services and the overall business climate in each state.

"The Agribusiness Friendliness Index illustrates the different ways government influences the economic climate of agriculture and its allied businesses," said Perry.

Pritchett added, "Businesses are acutely aware of the role that state government plays in their success — a business friendly environment will encourage these enterprises to locate or expand operations while unfriendly policies shrink business and may even cause relocation."

How did other top 10 dairy states fare? The highest ranked was Wisconsin at No. 16. It was closely followed by Washington, Texas, Idaho, Minnesota, Michigan and Pennsylvania — each falling between No. 18 and No. 26, respectively.

For more details go to: www.news.colostate.edu/Release/7194
www.news.colostate.edu/Release/7194

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Subject: intel comment

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May 27, 2014