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Consejero de Fomento y Medio Ambiente  
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**Please, don't authorise the 20.000-cow dairy factory farm in Noviercas, Soria**

Dear Ministers,

We write you regarding the proposed co-op Valle del Odieta dairy factory farm in Noviercas, Soria that would host up to 23.5000 cows. If this mega factory farm is finally built, it would be the biggest dairy farm in the European Union. The building of this farm would set a damaging precedent in Europe by modeling the US's livestock farming mode, where severe impacts to local communities, the environment, water and rural economies have been documented.

According to the available data, such a factory farm would mean:

- Replacing one third of dairy farms in the region, destroying more than 700 jobs. With the dairy sector already facing a difficulty, this factory farm could further destabilize an important part of the local rural economy.
- A water consumption greater than the total consumption of the city of Soria, that would compete with other water needs in the region. There is already an application to extract 24,59 liters per second from the aquifer.
- The generation of more than 368,000 tons of manure per year, the equivalent to the waste produced by the entire population of the regions of Castille and Leon and Castille-La Mancha. This huge concentration of manure would threaten aquifers and rivers in the area, as well as public health and local wildlife.
- Animal welfare conditions in these mega factory farms as well as such a large concentration of animals, would force the need to use antibiotics that can further aggravate antibiotic resistance problems.

Therefore, we urge you to take the necessary measures to stop such a factory farm. The European Union should stand for its model of social farming, in which these factory farms have no place. Furthermore, we encourage you to promote alternative models of development in the area of Noviercas that would promote sustainable agriculture and livestock farming, environmental protection and rural development.

Yours sincerely,

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