

DIRECT ACTION **DxE** EVERYWHERE

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Topless Women AGAIN Disrupt Bernie Sanders for Support of Dairy Industry -- Second Day in a Row

Animal rights group decries Sanders support of “cruel and unnecessary” dairy industry

[VIDEO](#) -- [PHOTOS](#)



FEBRUARY 17, RICHMOND, CA - A group of female activists with the animal rights network [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) disrupted Senator Bernie Sanders as he spoke at a campaign event Monday afternoon, attempting to get onto the stage and shouting “LET DAIRY DIE.” Two women were topless with “Let Dairy Die” written on their chests to protest the dairy industry’s abuse of female bodies. Dozens more held “LET DAIRY DIE” placards in the crowd while chanting the phrase. The action follows a similar DxE [protest](#) Sunday at a Bernie rally in Carson City, Nevada.

“We’re asking Bernie to stop propping up the cruel dairy industry. I have been to Vermont dairy farms and seen the animal abuse firsthand, piles of dead cows and baby cows chained in below-freezing weather,” said protester Christina Liu.

With the [dairy industry in steady decline](#), DxE is calling on Sanders to end his decades-long legislative history of protecting the dairy industry, citing animal welfare concerns and the preponderance of plant-based alternatives.

In conjunction with the protest, DxE is releasing the results of its investigation of Vermont Ben & Jerry’s dairy farms. Activists, including Liu, found **piles of dead mothers and babies and baby calves isolated in small hutches, exposed to snowfall and below zero wind chills, without food and water**. Activists cite a [veterinary opinion](#) indicating that this reality falls well short of the animal welfare standards set forth by [Ben & Jerry’s](#) and the [Sanders campaign](#).

Ben & Jerry’s co-founder Ben Cohen is also co-chair on Sanders’ presidential campaign. Ben & Jerry’s is also currently facing two consumer fraud lawsuits filed in [2018](#) and [2019](#), challenging the company’s animal welfare and sustainability claims. (Responding to the lawsuits, the company [removed it’s famous “happy cows” marketing](#) earlier this month.)

While Sanders has shifted to criticizing factory farming giants during the 2020 campaign, the dairy industry remains notably absent from his condemnation. On the contrary, Sanders has a pro-dairy history, including [personally writing an amendment](#) into a 2009 ag appropriations bill to give dairy \$350 million in corporate welfare. Sanders also supported the 2018 Farm Bill, which approved over [\\$100 billion](#) in subsidies while [rejecting activist requests to prevent handouts to millionaires and billionaires](#).

“I’m voting for Bernie because I believe in him. He can be the one to take on abusive industries like the dairy industry, and that starts by ending government subsidies to animal agriculture,” said Christina Liu.

Activists say Sanders is just one prominent example of the corrupting political influence of a dairy industry which not only undermines animal welfare, but has been cited as a [major contributor to climate change](#):

- Mega-cooperative Dairy Farmers of America, which ostensibly exists to support dairy farmers, has instead paid out tens of millions in class action lawsuit settlements *to its own member farmers* in [2012](#) and [2018](#). St. Albans Cooperative Creamery in Sanders’ home state of Vermont was recently forced to merge with the DFA.
- Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin, a [top recipient](#) of DFA campaign contributions, sponsored the Dairy Pride Act, which seeks to ban words like “milk” and “butter” in labelling dairy alternatives like soy milk. (Elizabeth Warren was a surprising 2018 sponsor of the Dairy Pride Act.)
- DxE activists have also exposed horrific dairy cruelty at a Wisconsin farm owned by state Assemblymember Gary Tauchen, who has co-authored a [state-level parallel](#) to the Dairy Pride Act.
- Like Sanders, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has [exempted dairy from his Big Ag antitrust critiques](#) since becoming CEO and President of U.S. Dairy Export Council, where he earns upwards of a million dollars a year.

Investigators with [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) enter farms, slaughterhouses, and other agricultural facilities to document abuses and rescue sick and injured animals. DxE’s investigatory work has been featured in [The New York Times](#).

[ABC Nightline](#), and a [viral Glenn Greenwald exposé](#), and DxE activists led the 2018 effort to [ban fur products in San Francisco](#). Visit Direct Action Everywhere on [Facebook](#) and at directactioneverywhere.com. Follow us on [Twitter @DxEverywhere](#).

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