

Submitter: Donna Bleiler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 85 AND PARTICULARLY -1 AMENDMENT.

This bill was originally introduced as requiring the State Department of Agriculture to study confined animal feeding operations (CAFO), and to submit findings to Legislature. However, -1 amendment stops all operations upon renewal of license until adequate study is completed and addressed through laws and rules. It is written as if the study already requires restrictions, so any study will be geared towards controlling CAFO, and not an objective study of what they are already doing right.

The definition of CAFO would apply to any large farming operation. The supporters of this bill do not understand farming operations or how much this would impact the food chain. Food prices are high now, this bill affects beef, pork, dairy, chickens, laying hens, turkeys, ducks, milk, cheese, eggs and all the by-products. Any study restricting farming practices will have a domino effect on the economy, impacting low income and homeless the hardest.