

Submitter: k davis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I urge you to support SB 85! Oregonians want to protect local food systems and our environment, including our air and water. Our climate, our communities, our habitats and ecosystems, and our small farms are more important than industry profit. Factory farms harm communities. They contribute to climate change, cause water and air pollution, harm the welfare of animals, and push family farms out of business. Factory farms are significant contributors to the climate chaos already impacting Oregon, and generate more greenhouse gas emissions and emit respiratory irritants like ammonia and hydrogen sulfide.

Despite known risks of significant pollution and ecosystem damage, Oregon currently has no regulatory controls to protect the health and wellbeing of adjacent communities or their surrounding communities, all who live downstream, or to prevent a worsening climate crisis. Families like mine, whose members struggle with worsening asthma or other chronic health conditions due to increasing and more toxic pollutants and worsening weather events, need to know that our state will protect communities from this kind of dangerous and short sighted commercial land use.

As you are considering this bill, scientists around the world are watching anxiously to see if the bird flu will lead to a next human pandemic. H5N1 has been devastating massive numbers of birds warehoused in poultry farms, has killed unknown numbers of local and migratory birds, is considered a significant risk to American Bald Eagles, has been noted to transmit from mink to mink and has recently killed another human victim, whose father was also tested positive for this virus.

Requiring our State Department of Agriculture to study confined animal feeding operations now is more critical than ever before. Please pass SB85.