

Submitter: Michael Fakhri

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Michael Fakhri

Re: Support for SB85, the factory farm moratorium bill

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, My name is Michael Fakhri and I live in Eugene. I support a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. I am also writing as law professor who has taught a course on Food and Farming at the University of Oregon and have led the Food Resiliency Project for over a decade. I have also been designated by the United Nations as the leading independent expert on the right to food (as the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food). I have regularly advised governments, farmers, and workers from all over the world.

Factory farms drain and pollute Oregon's water resources. In addition to catastrophic manure spills, the sheer amount of manure that factory farms produce often exceeds what crops can absorb. This causes manure runoff into waterways. Moreover, factory farms fuel climate change by releasing harmful and dangerous greenhouse gases, like methane and nitrous oxide. Oregon's 11 mega-dairy facilities produce over 17 million kilograms of methane gas every year – the same as the emissions from 318,000 passenger vehicles.

In the eight years after the state's largest mega-dairy began operations in 1999, more than 600 small-scale dairies went out of business. Whereas, Oregon's small farmers have long been producing healthy, safe, and abundant food for Oregonians with more conscientious stewardship of the environment, our communities, and our food supply than factory farms. Small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities. Factory farms extract wealth from our rural communities.

I urge you to vote for SB85 in the 2023 legislative session to protect our climate, environment, rural communities, and family farms.

Sincerely,

Michael Fakhri
Professor, University of Oregon School of Law

