

Submitter: Donna Torres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Dear Senators,

I OPPOSE the passing of this bill. SB 85 places a 5 year moratorium on CAFOs (confined animal feeding operations) in our state for study, ultimately halting all operations by not renewing permits in an industry that is already highly regulated. Where Idaho is providing funding to these operations, we are choosing to halt them to study them for climate impacts? This bill states this moratorium would only be lifted after a comprehensive review by the OR Dept. of Ag. of "impacts to air quality, climate, water quality, water supplies, small- and medium-sized livestock farms, community and worker health and animal welfare," and the passage of laws or rules to prevent adverse impacts. This would devastate not only the working ranch families in this state, but those that eat things other than bugs and plants.

The supporters of this bill do not understand farming operations or how much this would impact the food chain. With the food prices at an all-time high now, this bill effects 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.

90% of the larger ranch-raised beef in Oregon currently are sent to feed lots for finishing and processing out of state for lack of processing facilities, leaving only about 171 cattle CAFOs for medium to small ranch utilization. This will kill the industry in this state and close these operations, effecting the most vulnerable and hardest working people, the smaller to medium sized ranchers.

Their regulatory burden is already high. As many of these ranchers and families are my friends and neighbors, I can attest that they strive toward compliance to incredibly high standards in their operations already. And they do not need legislators with no expertise or even background on these issues pushing for policies that ignore existing and robust regulatory frameworks. This bill would devastate family operations and communities in Oregon, and would be a massive blow to Oregon's strong agricultural sector, which is already suffering under a pile of new regulatory burdens enacted by our legislature in recent sessions. The cattle industry alone is the 3rd largest agriculture commodity in the state of Oregon with over 13,000 ranches and 1,250,000 cattle (data according to the 2022 USDA, NASS Report). I urge you to do whatever you can to save this industry in this state .

Halting operations is not a solution to performing any type of study. I encourage you to strongly stand up and say NO to this bill. Please do not pass this unnecessary and very dangerous bill.

Sincerely,

Donna Torres

Azalea, Oregon

For all my family and friends of the industry

and for my home county, Douglas County which is ranked #7 by head of cattle/calves in this state at 59,000 head..