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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Water Pollution: When animals are kept in large, high-density factory farms a large amount of waste is accumulated. Often the amount of waste far exceeds the capacity of nearby farmland to absorb and is disposed of by moving the waste into open or covered pits (cesspools) or manure lagoons which leak nitrates into the groundwater threatening the drinking water of nearby communities. Strong evidence points to a relationship between drinking nitrate contaminated water and colorectal cancer, thyroid disease, neural tube defects and infant methemoglobinemia, commonly known as blue baby syndrome.

Air Pollution: The air pollution is categorically toxic and includes particles, volatile organic compounds, and gasses such as hydrogen sulfide and ammonia. A recent study documented that airborne emissions from livestock production are responsible for 12,700 deaths per year in the United States. Studies have shown that living near factory farms can increase the risk of community acquired pneumonia and clinically documented asthma exacerbations.

Risk Associated with Antibodies: Pathogens in manure such as Salmonella, Listeria monocytogenes and E. coli are capable of causing severe gastrointestinal disease, complications and sometimes death in humans. The pathogens become particularly dangerous when factory farms administer antibiotics at levels too low to treat disease and the create antibiotic-resistant pathogens. There is scientific consensus that antibiotics administered to food animals contribute to antibiotic resistance in humans. In the US antibiotics are administered to animals at nearly twice the intensity as all of the livestock industries in 30 European countries.

Dangerous to the Environment: Each year livestock emit 7.1 Gigatonnes of Co₂-equiv per year, which is 14.5% of all anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions globally. Cattle make up 9% of total livestock emissions. In Oregon, agriculture is a leading source of methane emissions. Climate change affects us all and has a disproportionate impact on low-income and BIPOC communities.