

Submitter: Delores Porch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I am writing in support of SB 85, which proposes a moratorium on factory farms. Please include this in the public record. I support this bill for the following reasons:

According to Secretary of State Shemia Fagan's Water Security Advisory Report "Not only are many families in Oregon dealing with water insecurity today, many more are at high-risk of becoming water insecure in the very near future. What is shocking about this report is it shows that we don't have a plan to address the problem."

Mega-dairies use enormous amounts of water. "Stock watering" uses a permit loophole that allows water to be extracted from an aquifer that has been closed to new withdrawals for decades.

Water permits grandfathered to new owners, such as the proposed chicken factory farms in areas such as Scio, don't plan to use the same amount of water as the previous owner. This loophole will affect other users in the same watershed.

I have an associates degree in Respiratory Care. I also have asthma. According to the last data available through the Oregon Health Authority, "In 2015, almost 340,000 Oregon adults were estimated to have current asthma." According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: "In 2013, 14 percent of currently employed Oregonians with asthma said that chemicals, smoke, fumes or dust at their current job caused their asthma and 24 percent of respondents said those substances caused asthma or made their asthma worse."

Manure that is decomposing emits substantial amounts of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and particulate matter. All are toxic to the respiratory system and are considered triggers of asthma. Monitoring costs money. Will there be more money to increase air quality monitoring for new factory farms? Will Oregon have the money to increase the monitoring of work-related asthma in these areas?

Let's not wait until we are in the same boat as states in the southwestern part of the nation. Let's be proactive. We need to find out how we stand before it is too late or too costly to all Oregonians, wherever we live in the state.