

Submitter: Chris Gibson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

My name is Chris, and I am a 3rd generation dairy farmer. I firmly believe that dairy farming/farming is a necessity for everyone's life. Dairy farmers/farmers provide a necessity that people can't go without, FOOD! If this bill is passed, it sets a precedent that will continue long into the future. A future that entails more regulations on top of an already strong regulated industry. More regulations will make it nearly impossible for these dairy farms to absorb and survive. The labor crisis, overtime , rising feed costs are just a few examples of the hurdles the remaining dairy farms we have left have to face. Over the last several years, more and more dairy farms are selling out because of challenging, volatile circumstances. If this continues, businesses in this state will have to rely on out of state products to provide the people . To have a thriving population you need a thriving economy and to have a thriving economy you need thriving businesses.

The Ag industry in general rely heavily and have a huge impact on each other. The general public doesn't fully understand what it takes to harvest milk from a cow. The logistics, the preparation, supplies, consulting with nutritionists and veterinarians, feeding programs, reproductive programs, calf care, labor etc... All of these elements tie into other Ag industry's in a big way. Not only would this bill have a negative impact on CAFO's, it would impact other Ag industry's as well. It's a lose lose from the CAFO to the consumer and everyone in between.

Nobody cares about the environment more than farmers. Just like anything else, if you don't take care for your livelihood, you won't last long. The environment and the animals are our livelihood and we strive to protect both of them.

I strongly oppose this bill that will inevitably cripple our industry.

Sincerely, Chris Gibson