

Submitter: Roger Knudson
On Behalf Of: 350 Eugene
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee?
From: Roger Knudson, 350 Eugene volunteer
?Re: Support for SB85, the factory farm moratorium bill

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Roger Knudson, and I live in Eugene. I support a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. I have been involved in climate activism for many years, first with the Climate Reality Project in Dallas Fort Worth and since my recent move to Oregon with 350 Eugene. I am gravely concerned with the ongoing disruption of our climate, caused primarily by greenhouse gas emissions. We must recognize that factory farms are a major source of methane emissions. 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.

Having survived the Covid pandemic and now a 75 year old, I am also deeply concerned about our vulnerability to future pandemics. Factory farms provide a perfect breeding ground for disease, including many like bird flu (avian influenza) that can readily spread to humans.

It makes obvious good sense to pause new construction and expansion of existing factory farms until a comprehensive regulatory framework is put in place to protect Oregon citizens from the many negatives associated with these industrial scale operations.

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

Sincerely,
Roger Knudson
Eugene 350 volunteer