

As a young woman in agriculture, college student, and daughter of first-generation ranchers, SB 85 is one of the most devastating bills to be considered in Oregon. I'm sick to my stomach as I write this, with the future of our industry, and families like ours in mind. On behalf of my family, our employees, truckers, cattle sellers, feed and equipment stores and beef eaters across the state, we wholeheartedly oppose this Senate Bill 85. Through nothing but blood, sweat, tears and blessings, my parents started with nothing and now operate a small feedlot in South Central Oregon. Owning and operating this feedyard has been a dream of my parents for as long as I can remember, as has operating a viable beef cattle production business. The suspension of permits for already existing CAFOs would ensure that our livelihood, my parents, and hundreds of others across the states, life's work, and a generation's futures are lost.

As a kid, I watched as our state implemented new policy that altered the way we operated our business and took care of our livestock. We, just like every other rancher in the state adapted and carried on. Our operations are our lives, they're not just a business and we will do what it takes to continue but SB 85 will make it nearly, if not, impossible to do so. The moratorium on permitting and reducing the expansion of CAFOs will not just affect those who operate them, but every other business and individual in the supply chain. Take for example, our trucker who hauls feed and cattle to and from our operation multiple times a week. If we became unpermitted and had to shut our operation down, his one-man show would lose all of our business, negatively impacting his income. Or take into consideration the hay farmers whose crop will no longer be in demand if livestock feeding no longer occurs in our state? What of their incomes, schools, and communities? This represents just a sliver of the impact SB 85 would have on the regular, hardworking people of this state.

Besides providing employment, producing and providing nutrient dense, Oregon grown products at a reasonable price to consumers within the state, a major benefit of CAFOs is their effective usage of land unsuitable for other purposes. Our property, for example, butts up against a rim of juniper trees. The topography is not flat, and the soil is rocky. Growing crops here would be inefficient as would simply grazing the cattle, the land could not produce the forage necessary to support even a fraction of the cattle we feed. The cattle are fed high quality rations that are specially formulated to meet their specific physiological demands and optimize their health. These rations maximize nutrient content of specific feeds, supplying energy to cattle with fewer feed resources and thereby fewer acres of farmed land. Fewer acres of farmed land mean fewer passes of harvest equipment across fields and decreased carbon emissions by this machinery. Emissions are decreased not only in what we are feeding but also how we are feeding. By utilizing a fenced, centralized facility to manage livestock, feed trucks are only driving a percentage of the distance relative to supplementing hay, minerals, and checking for health on the same number of cattle in a pasture operation. Decreased carbon emissions due to proximity occurs yet again when we consider the fact that most CAFOs are within miles of feed production farms.

Besides the abundant and obvious environmental efficiencies that CAFOs inherently provide, they are heavily restricted to ensure they meet specific guidelines. Each year the Oregon Department of Agriculture releases an annual report on CAFOs statewide. I encourage anyone with questions about the current restrictions to read through it. Included in it are the results of water sampling, number of permitted and unpermitted operations, the makeup of the operations,

results of inspections of permitted CAFOs, complaints, enforcement actions and more. There is no reasoning behind the statements claiming that CAFOs are unregulated and dangerous.

In closing, I want to shed light on the misinformation being spread in testimonials in support of this bill. We are not “factory farms”, we are not “large corporations”, and we certainly are not “in it for the money.” The misconception about the nature of CAFOs by those who have never visited one is damaging and misleading. We are stewards of the land, acting as the ultimate conservationists, taking care of Oregon's beautiful and rich natural resources because it is our responsibility. Senate Bill 85 is to the detriment of the hard-working, honest, land-loving, protein- producing people of this state. I urge you, our elected officials, to represent the people who live, eat, and breathe these operations and oppose this bill.