

Submitter: Amy Kenagy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I dare to ask, "What is the point of SB 85?" Do the writers even know where their lattes, hamburgers, chicken nuggets, bacon or eggs come from? Even if they don't they must trust the source, because I can't imagine Starbucks, McDonalds or any grocery store operating without those CAFO raised products.

The CAFO industry in Oregon is already highly regulated and monitored by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Therefore it would be wise to vote No on SB 85 and not waste your resources reinventing the wheel. The CAFO inspectors are experienced agriculturists specializing in the various operations who are constantly checking for safety and security of our water supply, our workers, and our animal's conditions. As a CAFO owner I undergo routine inspections and bookkeeping beyond what any urban do-gooder or "small farmer" would comprehend.

So I ask again, "What is the point?" "To feed the world" might be an agreed upon answer. Like most people we each view the end to a means in a different way. People used to be able to grow their own food, but families are smaller, the land is not available, and it has been left to the less than 1 percent of the population of the US to produce 80 percent of the agricultural products. And they trust us to do it! (see above... McDonalds). As a culture we have established our state department of Agriculture to monitor the operations defined as CAFOs. There is a 97.78% compliance rate. The system works. We have locally produced dairy products and eggs on the shelves in our stores and meat options sourced from producers all over the state.

I wonder if the "point" to SB 85 is to make it harder to produce food. Seems like it's currently plenty expensive to buy a bag of groceries, but wait—if we had to truck in all of our meat and dairy and eggs from other states, our costs would rise. Hmmm... the wording says, "prohibit renewal of permits" and they have until Sept 2024. That means that when our permit expires next February, and the proposed committee hasn't finished their research, will we be able to legally keep operating? I don't believe for a minute they will complete this task in a timely manner nor without harsh changes to the current system that will cost CAFO owners a pile of money. Again, another two reasons to vote no on SB 85.

"What is the point?" Seems to me the idea for this bill has not been well researched and is emotionally driven. Unless the writers of it want to buy land and grow their own chickens and cows and make cheese. Oh wait....cows fart. I guess they'll just spend more to cover the cost of fuel and anything else to deliver the food to their

doorstep while the less than one percent of us food producers lose our livelihoods.