

Submitter: Jason Campbell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Step1: Introduce an innocuous bill seeking to study the effects of CAFOs on the surrounding communities and environment.

Step 2: Slip in an amendment that assumes negative effects exist, regardless of these studies, and declares an emergency.

Step 3: Give this seemingly innocuous request for science some regulatory authority, by ordering a moratorium on construction of or improvements to livestock facilities, and potentially threatening the continuance of those that exist already.

What, exactly, is so emergent about the CAFO situation? These facilities have existed in Oregon since long before the term existed. Throughout that time, the industry has continually strived to make these facilities cleaner and less impactful to the environment. SB85 ignores these decades of progress, dismissing them in favor of the common rhetoric that assumes, without evidence, that any and all CAFOs are inherently bad.

Without the amendment, SB85 is a thinly veiled threat to the livestock industry in this state. The inclusion of the amendment, however, represents a pointed attack against same.

What about all of the small farms and ranches in our state? To assume that this bill will not effect, or perhaps even benefit them shows ignorance of the interconnected nature of these businesses. Without feedlots, for example, the small rancher has no buyer for his/her calves. How about the crop farmer that depends upon dairy manure as a source of natural fertilizer? Remove one facet of the industry, and the whole system comes crashing down. Want to know what happens to food prices for your city dwelling constituents then?