

Submitter: Jennifer Blake

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

As an Oregon swine producer, I oppose SB 85. While our family's operation does not rise to the level of a permitable CAFO, as defined, we are strongly opposed to new regulations affecting the production of food in the State of Oregon. The swine industry has come a long way in the last few decades and is strongly committed to sustainable and ethical principles of swine production. By utilizing CAFOs the industry has proven able to dramatically reduce their carbon footprint by, among other things, drastically reducing their energy and water usage. Animals are healthier now than ever before. In fact, in all aspects of agriculture, farmers' commitment to continuously improve practices has resulted in better methods in many areas of farming, including livestock. This commitment has had dramatic affects on all sizes of pig farms. Advances in technology and science based solutions have driven the industry to be better in nearly ever aspect such as:

#### Housing

OLD: Inconsistent: indoors and outdoors. Vulnerable to extreme weather, injury, predators and illness.

NEW: Indoors: protected from injury, illness and predators; comfortable temperatures year-round.

#### Health Management

OLD: Treated pigs in response to disease and illness.

NEW: Many approaches to prevent, control and mitigate risk for animal illness and disease; better identification and treatment of individual sick animals. Healthy animals are less stressed and grow better.

#### Odor control

OLD: Few standardized methods to control odors.

NEW: Awareness and prevention such as dust management and vegetative windbreaks to mitigate spread of farm odors; better manure management.

#### Nutrient management

OLD: Little manure containment and reuse; uncertain disposal.

NEW: Sophisticated systems to capture, control and use manure as fertilizer...the ultimate in recycling natural farming.

By proposing a moratorium on CAFO's you are limiting the potential of family farms to grow their operations by partnering with their children or the next generation. Capping a possible opportunity to be a growing business. Given the economics in today's

rapidly rising cost environment and the razor thin margins being experienced in animal agriculture, the inability to adjust or expand has a significant potential to put family farms out of business. The suggestion that "...may not issue or renew a license or permit to allow the construction or operation of..." and declaring an emergency for immediate effect, may also carry with it the unintended consequences of a significant rise in food prices and an increase of families experiencing food insecurity.

For these reasons and more, my family and I urge you to NOT to pass this Senate Bill.