

Submitter: Keith Iding  
On Behalf Of: Northwest VEG  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources  
Measure: SB85

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Re: Support for SB85, the factory farm moratorium bill

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

My name is Keith Iding. My career here was as a Natural Resource Specialist working for Oregon DEQ. Since retirement, I am currently the elected President of the Portland nonprofit Northwest VEG. Our organization strongly supports a moratorium on factory farm expansion in Oregon. We represent thousands of mailing list recipients and supporters here, to educate the public on the terrible environmental, health and animal welfare costs for allowing industrial scale animal agriculture to dominate our economy.

We welcome the passage of a factory farm moratorium, as described by SB 85. CAFOs are responsible for vast amounts of raw sewage to be applied directly to the land. This untreated manure pond sewage is applied to the land in far greater amounts than can be absorbed by the intended crops and results in highly polluting runoff entering our waterways.

Factory farms also fuel climate change by releasing harmful and dangerous greenhouse gases, like methane and nitrous oxide. Oregon's 11 mega-dairy facilities produce an emission equivalent to 318,000 passenger vehicles. Factory farms are also breeding grounds for disease, due to unsanitary and cramped conditions, where animals can carry and spread pathogens to humans, such as avian and swine flu.

Factory farms create a very unsafe work environment for workers, who are often forced into hazardous working conditions through exposure to chemicals, fumes, and particulate matter.

Factory farms are an environmental justice issue. Many of Oregon's largest dairy factory farms are in rural low income and Hispanic communities who disproportionately suffer the adverse effects. Last but not least, the farmed animals in industrial-scale settings suffer immensely. In order to economize production for maximum profits. Birth, life, and death for animals in factory farms can be considered a form of torture.

Factory farms are an unacceptable profit motivated twist on traditional farming that have multiple highly destructive impacts on the environment and the quality of life

here for humans and animals. We are not appropriately weighing the burdensome costs as long as these mega farms are lightly regulated as family farms and the true runoff and carbon pollution are essentially ignored. Let's proceed to enact a moratorium on further expansion of these places.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith Iding, Portland