

Submitter: Matthew Brady

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Chair Golden and members of the Committee,

My name is Matthew Brady, and I am a sheep and hay farmer in rural southern Douglas County.

It is disappointing to see the -1 amendments to SB85 that clearly seek to put Oregon Farmers and Ranchers at a competitive disadvantage, and further drive up the cost of food production for Oregonians. The moratorium on on new CAFO permits and renewal of existing permits seems to me a presumption that CAFOs are already harmful, and not at all “evidence-based” in its presumption. Oregon already has one of the country’s most robust regulatory programs for livestock feeding operations. SB85 will make it harder for farms to update their existing facilities with upgrades designed for long term sustainability. This unnecessary bill also threatens to drive up already sky-high food prices, increase carbon emissions, and force an over reliance on out-of-state food suppliers. If farmers and ranchers are not able to update their CAFO systems, there will be attrition in the animal based food production system in our state. We will become more and more reliant on out-of-state producers. Transportation costs will be added to the price of animal derived food products. Transportation emissions, will further increase the carbon footprint of our meals. Food sovereignty, (the ability to produce your own food) will rapidly diminish, and we will become dependent on others to sustain the citizens of our state.

I urge you to oppose this bill, and consign it to the rubbish heap of the 2023 Session!