



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 6, 2023

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod and Members of Senate Committee on Natural Resources,

Please accept this testimony in strong opposition to SB 85, including the -1 amendment, which has the potential to decimate farms of all sizes across the State and magnify the strain on our already-struggling food supply chain.

Married to a 4th generation farmer, I know first-hand that Oregon is not home to “factory farms” or “industrial ag”. Oregon is home to an agriculture sector that is 97% family owned and operated. We are relied upon to be the backbone of our local food supply and exports out of state. Our farmers and ranchers make up less than 1% of the state’s population yet are the heart of one of Oregon’s most important economic industries. Collectively, they generate \$5.01 billion in agricultural products annually and export \$2.57 billion. Oregon is a world player in the agriculture sector.

Oregon also has one of the country’s most robust regulatory programs for livestock feeding operations, a program which has recently been enhanced to continue to improve the processes that protect of our environment and food supply. Our farmers are stewards of the environment, caring deeply for farming and ranching practices that ensure clean air, clean waters and sustainable lands. The fact of the matter is that our operations are inherently tied to the earth and our producers abide by the highest environmental standards. They rely on the land to provide them a living and they respect and nurture that relationship. That is why they are able to be multigenerational farm and ranch families.

SB 85 aims to prohibit new and renewed confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) permits for our dairies, feedlots, poultry farms and other operations. The passage of SB 85 would add additional unfair and unnecessary regulations to our local farms, increasing food shortages, consumer costs, reliance on out-of-state production and ultimately driving multi-generational farms out of business. The reality is that a lot of our current producers would be unable to continue operations considering this proposed moratorium. Consequences to this will be detrimental for both our state and food supply.

Denying the renewal of any existing permits, will reduce the supply of food in Oregon, and create a reliance on out of state production, which drives up processing and transportation costs and a net increase in global carbon emissions. Oregon’s environmentalist community should be protecting our local food supply, and not aiming to destroy it. Importing what we eat is not the answer.

At a time when Oregon’s ag community is battling to keep up with increased demand, new regulations and tax/labor requirements—this legislature has a responsibility to help our local producers, not penalize them further. It takes all sizes of farms and ranches to feed Oregonians and the vast places that we export to. Colleagues, I urge you to fight **for** our agricultural neighbors—not against them and oppose SB 85 and -1 amendment.

Sincerely,

Anna Scharf
State Representative – HD 23