

## **Support SB 85: Factory Farm Moratorium**

I am a Bend resident, member of the Sierra Club Juniper chapter, and a core team member of the Sierra Club National Food and Ag Grassroots network. In partnership with many other NGOs and farmers associations we have been focused on the 2023 farm bill, and provided members of Congress with testimony and support to explain the urgent need to change agricultural practices.

Now pending before the Oregon Senate Committee On Natural Resources is SB 85: calling for a Factory Farm Moratorium. To appreciate the importance of this bill one must understand the environmental and human health impact of these concentrated animal feeding operations also referred to as CAFOs.

Over the last six decades, food animal production in the United States has transformed from a system of small and medium-sized farms toward one characterized by much larger operations that concentrate large numbers of animals and their manure in relatively small geographic areas. These operations function with the high throughput and rapid turnover of an industrialized system.

The enormous accumulation of manure and other waste created by CAFOs equals that of a small city, but is often stored and disposed untreated in a manner that pollutes the air, surface, and groundwater, posing risks to the environment and human health, particularly for CAFO workers and nearby residents. These operations disproportionately affect low-income, disadvantaged communities with high proportions of racial and ethnic minority residents, raising serious social and environmental justice concerns.

Also underappreciated is the impact of chemically intensive monoculture food production for CAFO animals, which has externalized the costs of environmental degradation and adverse health impacts, keeping retail meat prices artificially low while shifting health and environmental costs onto communities and individual Americans.

Moreover, these negative, externalized costs are likely to mount in coming years. Despite the growing evidence that CAFOs pose health and environmental risks and negatively impact workers and communities, CAFO regulations and their enforcement have failed to adequately protect human health and the environment. SB 85 calls for a moratorium on the establishment of new CAFOs and expansion of existing CAFOs until regulation and enforcement conditions are in place to adequately protect the public's health.

Small farmers who sell their products where they live have a more positive impact on their communities than farms whose products are sold out of state. According to [this OSU study](#) locally focused producers create more jobs, put more money into their local economies and have a greater multiplier effect than commodity

focused growers whose products are often shipped out of state. Locally focused farms employ local people, pay taxes locally, are more likely to give back to their communities in charity and mutual aid, and tend to buy more of their inputs locally.

I would urge the committee to adopt SB 85: The Factory Farm Moratorium.

Klaus Mager  
19458 Golden Meadow Loop  
Bend, OR 97702

760-449-4170