

Submitter: Sara Grusing

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I urge you to vote yes to protect Oregon from dangerous, disgusting, polluting, and abusive factory farming. I have lived in Oregon my whole life. I have driven to Los Angeles on I5 and passed a huge Confined Animal Farming Operation (CAFO) years ago. Before I could see the cows living on dirt lots, packed together tightly with not enough shade provided, I smelled them. My windows were up. The stench was so strong, it entered my car and did not dissipate until I was miles away from the long stretch of sad cows. I can still remember it distinctly - it smelled nothing like Tillamook dairy farms, it was more like the smell of death than manure. In all honesty, I appreciated seeing the poor animals. So much of the suffering of animals like these our society aids is hidden away, out of view. People like to think that we are buying meat that has come from happy, healthy animals, who are cared for. This is just not the way it is. I think the more we can do to keep factory farms of all kinds out of Oregon, the less complicit we are. If you do any amount of research, you will see that the runoff from all types of CAFOs, including chicken and pigs, leads to water pollution that is destructive to our ecosystems. Why would we even entertain the idea of allowing more of this, when our salmon are depleted to the point where we can't even fulfill what is obligated in our treaties to native people. The only thing I can think of, is that for some people (probably out of state investors), there is money to be made, and this way is the cheapest or fastest or easiest. But we're going to be sued for breaking the treaty, knowingly, and we will/should lose. The environment can't keep up with this pace of destruction. Also, what about all of the money we'd then be wasting in preparing the children for their futures. The environment is going to be so wrecked, they won't really have a chance at life as we've known it. This is something we can do that will actually make a difference to air quality, pollution, the lives of many of thousands or more of animals, and the future of Oregon.