

Submitter: Morgan Kromm

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Whether you're a cattle producer, working cowboy, truck driver, feedlot employee, or someone buying groceries in the Northwest, SB85 affects you.

Placing a moratorium on issuing or renewing licenses or permits allowing Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) can cripple Oregon meat and poultry industries, the entire Northwest, and beyond.

In Oregon, there are currently 18 feedlots that have Tier 2 permits. Under proposed - 1 amendments, all 18 would lose their licenses in the next 5 years or have to reduce to less than a max of 2500 head before 2028.

SB85 will only reduce supply, and lower supply with stable or increased demand WILL mean higher prices for consumers.

Shutting down Oregon production will cost us jobs and force Oregonians to source beef from out of state. That adds transportation expenses, distribution costs, and most of all, comes on the back of Oregon ranchers, their families, and the feedlots and processors that rely on them. It also will affect the economy outside of Oregon if you consider the demand from other states that Oregon supplies. It will be like the toilet paper nightmare of 2020 again, but this time with beef.

As producers, we must have somewhere to send cattle to be finished. It's as simple as that. I am a young woman that feels blessed to be in the cattle ranching industry. I run a couple of small, outside leases for a large cow/calf operation. The cattle I care for alone produce 400,000 lbs of beef for human consumption annually, so imagine how many pounds of beef alone come from our state of Oregon. Doing anything to lessen the supply will be felt by producers and consumers alike.

My friends in the Scio area have explained their perspectives on chicken farms, and I sympathize with them. The issue with SB85 is the broad range of CAFOs it encompasses. Something needs to be done about the chicken/broiler farms threatening the Stayton/Scio area, but trying to place a moratorium on cattle operations is not the solution.

I oppose SB85 as this legislation completely ignores Oregon's existing regulatory programs governing livestock feeding operations. We are already under so many regulations that many cattle operations struggle to stay afloat, so we absolutely do

not need more. The solution is to address the chicken farms separately and leave other agricultural sectors out of it.