

Submitter: Jill Wyatt  
On Behalf Of: self  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources  
Measure: SB85

I am an Oregonian living near a confined feeding operation (cows) and I urge you to support a moratorium on factory farms, SB 85. We have a deep sense of place and want to protect our local food system and our environment, including our air and water, for generations to come. Our climate, our communities, our special places, and our small farms are more important than industry profit.

Factory farms are harming our communities. They contribute to climate change, cause water and air pollution, and push family farms out of business. Factory farms are a significant contributor to the climate crisis already gripping Oregon, generating more greenhouse gas emissions than small and medium farms, especially pasture-based farms. Factory farms emit respiratory irritants like ammonia and hydrogen sulfide.

Despite this air pollution, Oregon currently has no regulatory controls to protect the health and wellbeing of surrounding neighbors or prevent a worsening climate crisis. Factory farms also use a lot of water, even in places with increasing scarcity and drought. They can use as much water as a small city but generate many times the waste. Manure and other contaminants (like heavy metals, drugs, and pathogens) leach into groundwater and runoff into surface water, making our waters dangerous for wildlife and people. Our current laws to protect water quality and quantity are not sufficient to stop this industry from harming our communities and ecosystems.

Oregon is now a target for these mega-sized operations, particularly as neighboring states increase their environmental protections. There are current proposals for re-opening the disastrous Lost Valley mega-dairy in Morrow County and for several mega-chicken operations in the prime farmland of Willamette Valley.

Oregon's local food system is important to me. We must protect our independent family-scale farmers, and new emerging farmers, from the harms of mega-scale corporate factory farms.

We can't allow Oregon to become the next hotbed for factory farms. Urgent action is needed to protect Oregon from the harms posed by these industrial facilities.