

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Dear Chair Golden and members of the Committee,

I am in favor of restricting confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and transitioning back to healthier-- for animals and people--farming practices which have been historically sustainable.

I get my eggs from a small-scale farmer in Cloverdale whose family has been farming the area for over a 100 years. He prides himself on his free range, happy-- and I'll add bug-population controlling-- hens (chickens eat and derive a lot of protein from insects like ticks). And they're the best eggs I've ever eaten.

CAFOs, on the other hand, confine animals to very close quarters, and regularly add antibiotics to the feed to keep the animals from succumbing to infection. This leads to antibiotic resistance and makes it harder and harder for doctors to save people's lives.\* It is also well documented that CAFOs pollute surface water, groundwater, and air with toxins.\*\*

Rather than study CAFOS, prioritize small farmers and public health. I urge you: restrict CAFOs and direct the Department of Agriculture to study and help farmers implement healthy, sustainable practices.

Sincerely,  
Helena Birecki

\*<https://blogs.umass.edu/natsci397a-eross/impact-of-antibiotic-use-in-concentrated-animal-feeding-operations-on-human-health/#:~:text=There%20is%20a%20consensus%20among,through%20meat%20and%20the%20environment>

\*\*[https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/docs/understanding\\_cafos\\_nalboh.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/docs/understanding_cafos_nalboh.pdf)