

Submitter: Christine Beaulieu
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

Date: 3/7/2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Christine Beaulieu

Re: Support for SB 85- the factory farm moratorium bill

Dear Chair Golden, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Christine Beaulieu, and I live in Lake Oswego. I've been volunteering at a small CSA farm on the outskirts of Oregon City since 2013.

I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. We must take action to halt the expansion of factory farming in our state until we have protections in place for the environment, animal welfare, family farms, and frontline communities.

I believe that all Oregonians have a right to clean air, water, and food, and that adding CAFO-style operations (I can't even bring myself to call them "farms") to our rural communities would endanger the environment and health of anyone living nearby, as well as hurt the economic viability of responsible small farm operations. I envision Oregon as a place where small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities, and a move toward CAFOs would be a move in the exact wrong direction! They outcompete local producers because of their advantages of economies of scale while not paying the full price of their irresponsible mode of production - environmental and health impacts that those around them will instead end up paying.

Oregonians know that a healthy food system is integral to the wellbeing of our communities, our agriculture, and our state. Oregonians want community-based agriculture that delivers safe food to all Oregonians. Every time someone from our farm's community comes to pick up their fresh food from our CSA, they know it was farmed or raised safely and responsibly, with the health and wellbeing of all future Oregonians taken into account, and that is intensely satisfying and gratifying for them. I want that experience for all Oregonians every time they shop, whether from a farmer's market or supermarket! They should have the peace of mind of knowing that their purchase isn't causing harm to others.

Factory farms monopolize meat processing infrastructure and make it harder for independent farmers to find processing. They also attract more contract-only

processing facilities to the state, which aren't open to other farmers. These facilities come in with a lot of money and take up EFU zoned land and designated High Value Soils. They outbid local, small and midsize farmers and then don't use the land for its intended purpose. You don't need High Value Soils to build a warehouse full of hundreds of thousands of miserable animals, and the compaction from such large operations will cause damage to the soil that would take decades to undo.

I urge you to vote for SB 85 in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and midsized socially and ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Christine Beaulieu