

## Testimony in Support of SB85

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee  
From: Brooke Bachelor, DO  
Re: Support for SB85, the factory farm moratorium bill

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

My name is Dr. Brooke Bachelor, and I live in Portland, Oregon. ***I write to you today as a concerned citizen, family physician, and mother-to-be in full support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon.***

Briefly, I feel that factory farms are an environmental justice issue that also have significant negative effects on the health of our community as a whole, and I am also deeply disturbed by the way we as a society treat animals as sentient beings. There are so many reasons I support this bill that I highlight in more detail below.

### **Public Health:**

- Poor sanitation and waste management on factory farms can lead to contamination of the food supply by bacteria like E. Coli and salmonella. Each year, the CDC estimates that 48 million (1 in 6) Americans become ill from foodborne illness, and thousands die<sup>1</sup>.
- Factory farms contribute to antibiotic resistance<sup>2</sup>.
- Factory farms are breeding grounds for disease. Due to unsanitary, cramped conditions, animals can carry and spread pathogens to humans (like H1N1/swine flu and avian influenza/bird flu)<sup>3</sup>.
- A factory farm moratorium would provide additional protection against carcinogens (cancer-causing agents) that are not always effectively filtered out of our drinking water as well as toxic air quality that threatens the health of local communities.
- To protect people and animals, CDC recommends that we “adhere to animal welfare standards including safe drinking water supply, good nutrition, clean airflow, and avoidance of overcrowding<sup>4</sup>.”

### **Environmental Impact:**

- Factory farms drain and pollute Oregon’s water resources. Oregon’s eleven mega dairies use the same amount of water everyday as a small city!
- Factory farms fuel climate change by releasing harmful and dangerous greenhouse gases like methane and nitrous oxide<sup>56</sup>. Oregon’s mega dairy facilities produce over 17 million kilograms of methane gas every year, the same as the emissions from 318,000 passenger vehicles<sup>7</sup>!

### **Farm Workers and Frontline Communities:**

- Factory farm workers are often forced into unsafe working conditions and exposed to hazardous chemicals, fumes, and particulate matter<sup>8</sup>.
- Factory farms are an environmental justice issue. A large portion of Oregon's factory farms are in Latinx communities which disproportionately suffer the adverse effects of these farms.

### **Animal Welfare:**

- Oregon has progressive, humane values, yet farmed animals in industrial-scale settings suffer immensely. In order to economize production for maximum profits, birth, life and death for animals in factory farms is agony.
- Animals are sentient beings who clearly experience a wide range of emotions. They are more aware of what is happening than many realize, and they deserve, at minimum, to be treated in a more humane way. We can do better!

In summary, we have an excellent opportunity here with SB85 to move in a better direction as a society. As someone who our community trusts with some of their most valuable assets, I hope you will join me in support of SB85.

Thank you,

Brooke Bachelor, DO

### **Sources:**

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/foodborneburden/2011-foodborne-estimates.html>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/food.html>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/zoonotic-diseases.html>
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/livestock-poultry-producers.html>
5. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions#agriculture>
6. <https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=31441.wba>
7. [https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FSW\\_2205\\_ORMega-Dairies.pdf](https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/FSW_2205_ORMega-Dairies.pdf)
8. [https://foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/rpt\\_1805\\_urgent\\_case\\_to\\_ban\\_factory\\_farms-final-final-web.pdf](https://foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/rpt_1805_urgent_case_to_ban_factory_farms-final-final-web.pdf)

### **Additional reading:**

- <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/production-chain.html>
- [https://foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/rpt\\_1805\\_urgent\\_case\\_to\\_ban\\_factory\\_farms-final-final-web.pdf](https://foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/rpt_1805_urgent_case_to_ban_factory_farms-final-final-web.pdf)