

Submitter: Phillip Callaway

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

March 8, 2023

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the Committee,

These Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) are also called factory farms, or industrial ag, but they are more factory than farm, and more industrial than ag. They should not be an outright permitted use anywhere that is zoned for farming. Because of the known issues around air pollution, groundwater pollution, surface water pollution, water usage, and manure disposal, the siting of CAFOs should be restricted.

I believe there needs to be a new zone type specifically for CAFOs. For the sake of discussion, lets call this new zone type CAFO. The state would define the requirements to be met before a site could be zoned for CAFO, and the outright permitted uses in CAFO zoning. CAFO operations would only be allowed in CAFO zoning.

These state defined requirements should state that CAFO siting is restricted to marginal soils. It makes no sense to say that solar farms cannot be sited on prime farm soils but it is OK to cover up those same prime farm soils with metal buildings. In either case, those farm soils are lost for future farm use forever.

If someone wanted to establish a CAFO in an area not currently zoned for CAFO, they would need to go through the rezoning process to have the site rezoned to CAFO. This allows the community to provide input to the rezoning decision and allows the county government to restrict CAFO siting to those areas that meet the state defined requirements for CAFO zoning.

Finally, allowing CAFO's unlimited use of groundwater resources makes no sense anymore. Water is becoming more and more precious and there needs to be restrictions on water usage by CAFO's.

I ask that you please vote YES to pass SB 85.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phillip Callaway  
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