

Submitter: Donna Torres
On Behalf Of: Agriculture in Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

Dear Senators,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 85. As I read articles and testimonies from others, I feel these folks do not have the whole picture of how devastating this will be to agriculture in the state of Oregon and their own dinner tables.

There is a huge difference between doing a climate-impact study on pre-construction or expansion of CAFOs in this state vs. placing a moratorium on existing operations and reconstruction of CAFO facility permits. This bill will ultimately cease all CAFO facility operations, devastating small to medium farms and ranches who raise livestock from beef, pork, cattle, and poultry.

CAFOs are used by farms and ranches to send animals to for finishing and processing. Currently, 90% of the larger ranches have to send livestock out of state for lack of larger CAFO operations in Oregon. The facilities left in Oregon are smaller scale facilities that provide these services for small to medium size livestock agriculture in Oregon. This bill will shut down the remaining operations. Moratorium (def. A suspension of an ongoing or planned activity).

Passing this bill will expand the reliance of out-of-state production, resulting in a net increase in carbon emissions for food production. It places a strain on our food supply chain in this state and further drives up the costs for milk, chicken, eggs, beef and pork.

Do you eat or like beef, poultry, pork, etc? What about eggs from chickens, or cheese from dairy on your sandwich? What about bacon for breakfast? Are you enjoying the prices in the supermarket now? This bill will exponentially cause those prices to increase and devastate the industry in this state.

If anyone is also concerned with water quality and quantity in this state (we face drought situations), I would write negatively why we should not invite the semiconductor industry here. Semiconductors utilize vast amounts of water that is not recyclable (ie; hazardous waste) in a state hurting for water. The CAFO facilities produce recyclable products and contribute to the food chain. If I were a reporter, I would do my due diligence in reporting the truth about this industry and how beneficial it is to your dinner table and the agriculture industry in the state of Oregon more than trying to attract the semiconductor industry into this state.

Respectfully.