

Submitter: Chad Kernutt
On Behalf Of: WE THE PEOPLE
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Chad Kernutt and I urge you to vote NO on SB-85. Meat has become so expensive in the last year that we can hardly afford to buy it anymore. I have a family of 5 that needs to eat animal protein, my 3 children need that in their diets. Short sighted and selfish bills like this will hurt all Oregonians that value meats in their diets and at affordable prices. A bill like this if passed by uneducated and extremely selfish people would quite literally be taking money out of my wallet and food off of my children's table/plates. Oregon is known for our agricultural products. These farmers are our friends, neighbors, family members and our fellow Oregonians. Meats in proper and good supply and at affordable prices are absolutely necessary and required for a good Oregon economy and properly fed Oregonians with healthy diets. That is why I am opposing SB 85 and I implore you to do the same. It would threaten the future of Oregon agriculture and family farms and take money from all Oregonians and Oregon families (think of our CHILDREN).

This bill would limit or ban the expansion or creation of additional responsible, highly-regulated, and ethical livestock operations throughout Oregon. These family-owned farms and feedlots produce beef, dairy, chicken, eggs, and pork for Oregonians and beyond. Oregon has one of the country's most robust regulatory programs for livestock feeding operations. This program was recently enhanced (with support from the ag industry) to ensure protection for our environment and food supply. Each of these farms or feedlots hold a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit; a program partnership between the Department of Environmental Quality and administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The CAFO permit provides oversight to protect Oregon's water quality.

If SB 85 passed, it would magnify the strain on our food supply chain and further drive up costs for milk, chicken, eggs, beef, and pork. This legislation would only accelerate the loss of family farms and local food production, killing jobs and businesses. As a result, Oregon would have to rely more on out-of-state livestock products and families would pay the price from their diets and their wallets. Please don't be selfish and attack the farmers and businesses in Oregon more than the Oregon legislature already has. Please vote NO on SB-85. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Chad Kernutt