

Submitter: Lindy Minten

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Links -

“ Today, no greater concentration of corporate power, monopolistic practices, and exclusion of economic prosperity exists than in the food and agriculture markets.”

<https://farmaction.us/anti-monopoly-reform/>

Great article from the AG community – Breaking up with big chicken -

“<https://farmaction.us/2022/08/17/time-to-break-up-with-big-chicken-a-hard-look-at-the-contract-growing-system/>

<https://agamerica.com/blog/meatpacking-monopoly-legislative-updates/> “This renewed spark of motivation to address the complex issue of monopolization in the cattle market”

<https://mofb.org/meatpacking-industry-consolidation-must-be-investigated/>

“Meatpacking Industry Consolidation Must Be Investigated

<https://aglawjournal.wp.drake.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/66/2016/09/agVol09No1-Obrien.pdf> “eighty percent of steer and heifer slaughter is controlled by four firms; fiftyfour percent of hog slaughter is controlled by four firms; more than sixty percent of soybean processing, wet corn milling, and cottonseed milling are controlled by four firms, while these same firms also control large shares of the agricultural chemical market.¹ Just as these industries have become more horizontally consolidated,² they have also increased the use of vertical arrangements.³ The swine industry appears to model the poultry industry, as hog packers now have eighty percent to ninety percent of their supply in some type of vertical arrangement.⁴

“The top five firms in the steer and heifer slaughter market have 88.7% of the market, with the top four having about 83%.⁶ The top five in hogs have 71.6%, and the top five in poultry processing have 60.5%.⁷ In terms of vertical integration or coordination, the hog industry has over 75% in captive supplies,⁸ while the poultry industry approaches 90%.⁹” <http://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/articles/antitrust.pdf>

<https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/flory.pdf>

“AFBF supports strengthening enforcement activities to ensure proposed agribusiness mergers and vertical integration arrangements do not hamper producers' access to inputs, markets and transportation. T”

Other states/fed proposing moratorium - https://thefern.org/ag_insider/across-the-country-a-call-grows-for-moratoriums-on-huge-livestock-farms/

Cattleman’s association – ““To see the need for increased competition in the U.S.

cattle marketplace rise to the White House level is a testament
<https://uscattlemen.org/biden-administration-sends-strong-message-on-consolidation-and-competition/> to the many, many agricultural producer and consumer voices who have been advocating for change”

““With over 80% of the fed cattle market controlled by only four major packing companies, we are concerned about the control these firms have,” AFBF President Zippy Duvall wrote” <https://www.fb.org/news-release/farm-bureau-calls-on-doj-for-update-on-meatpacker-investigation>

“On a national level, meat processing has become increasingly vertically integrated, with four companies controlling a majority of U.S. meat processing. Fifty meat plants slaughter and process 98 percent of the national meat supply — investing in processing is an investment in the security of our food supply.”
<https://www.morningagclips.com/the-monopoly-on-meat/>

“ “This extraction of all the wealth that can be taken off the farm extracts wealth out of that community. <https://prospect.org/economy/meat-industrys-middlemen-starving-families-and-farmers/>

“The consolidation runs deep: four firms or fewer controlled at least 50% of the market for 79% of the groceries. For almost a third of shopping items, the top firms controlled at least 75% of the market share.”
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2021/jul/14/food-monopoly-meals-profits-data-investigation>

“ One of the things we need to look at closely is whether consolidation in the agriculture industry is threatening serious supply chain vulnerabilities that could cause future price spikes.”