

Submitter: Kate Miller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Honorable Senator Golden and Committee members,

I support SB 85. The issue that these addresses are effective in giving the farmers and citizens of Oregon time to review the impacts both economic and environmental caused by expansion and new large-scale animal feeding operations. We cannot in good conscience allow this business sector to dominate and increase their businesses with no lasting value added to the communities of rural Oregon.

I have lived in rural communities and am an avid hiker. You cannot see Mt Hood from the gorge as clearly these days as a decade ago.

There is a substantial impact on air from the emissions that is visible from eastern Oregon and into the Willamette valley this is a combined effect of many contributing factors, including these large factory farms. We are challenged as a state to improve our emissions and reduce the fire seasons impacts. More air pollution exacerbates climate change.

Social Justice is also a concern; There are unhealthy conditions in these CAFOs. These conditions in the area are not just on-site- it is everywhere - in the store and around the homes that impact the human level of workers and residents of these communities.

Not just immediately - but over time. Asthma and childhood illness affect those in lower-income migrant families disproportionately.

These are people who need to have a voice in Oregon now, please stand up for those that cannot speak for themselves.

The scale of the operations is such that it is truly mind-boggling. Water that is cheap and lax regulations in Oregon are attracting these businesses to our state.

It is a classic model of exploitation, resource extraction, and then profiteering over common sense sustainable dairy and meat production.

In addition to horrible worker health, air, and water quality are measurably degraded where there are concentrations at this level of animal waste. There is no "tax" that can be levied in advance of these businesses that will pay for the damage that can be done. Oregon should not be made into an industrial-level agricultural site with this level of waste. These products are being exported to other countries and we in Oregon will have polluted water and air. The true costs are not built into the initial price, and the communities are left holding the bag.

Your Support of Senate Bill 85 will benefit family farmers and sustainable agriculture operations that bring better value to our state over time. We need to hit the pause button and create gatekeeping. This has the potential to avoid damaging permanently our tourism industry as well as our quality of life statewide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kate Miller