

Dear Chair Golden, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Betsy Schoettlin, and I live in Newberg, Oregon.

I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. We must take action to halt the expansion of factory farming in our state until we have protections in place for the environment, animal welfare, family farms, and frontline communities.

This scale of industrial production takes more than its fair share of water resources, an issue that is beginning to impact small farms and residences, already, due to climate change.

We envision Oregon as a place where small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities. Oregonians know that a healthy food system is integral to the well being of our communities, our agriculture, and our state.

Oregonians want community-based agriculture that delivers safe food to all Oregonians. It is important to me that I have access to locally, ethically, and sustainably grown meat and vegetables.

Factory farms monopolize meat processing infrastructure and make it harder for independent farmers to find processing. They also attract more contract only processing facilities to the state not open to other farmers. These facilities disincentivize plants from working with small farmers like me, limiting my options even more. Processing appointments are so far out and so difficult to make that I am not able to raise livestock for meat.

These gigantic facilities are often owned by out of state folks who don't invest in my community.

These facilities come in with a lot of money and take up EFU zoned land and designated High Value Soils. They outbid local, small and midsize farmers and then don't use the land for its intended purpose. You don't need High Value Soils to build a warehouse full of 125,000 chickens, and the compaction/damage to the soil will take decades to undo

I urge you to vote for SB 85 in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and mid-sized socially and ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Betsy Schoettlin

Owner, BotherBee Farm