

Submitter: Linda Engels  
On Behalf Of: Volunteer with Food and Water Watch  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources  
Measure: SB85

Dear Chairman Golden and members of the Natural Resource Committee,

My name is Linda Engels and I live in Portland. I am a volunteer with Food and Water Watch. I support a factory farm moratorium. A number of years ago, I had the unpleasant experience of visiting a mega-dairy, though not in Oregon. It made a lasting impresssion on me and is why I am passionate about this moratorium.

Factory farms pose enormous health risks to our planet; our water, our soil, our air and to the people that work and live in these areas as well as the animals that are forced into these environments. The 11 mega-dairies here use as much water on a daily basis, for drinking and cleaning, as a small city. This is truly unsustainable! The mount of manure produced in these environments are more than crops can possibly absorb causing pollution to ground water and waterways. In addition to water usage and pollution, greenhouse gases such as methane and nitrous oxide not only warm the planet, but pose real health risks to those living and working in these areas.

Small family farms, dwindling in numbers, practice sustainable farming and provide economic stability for the rural communities of our state. We need more family farms and less factory farms.

I urge you to vote for SB 85 in this legislative session for the sake of our state and for the sake of our planet.

Sincerely,

Linda Engels