

Concerns About Amendments to SB 85-1

TO: Chair Golden and Vice-Chair Girod and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources
FROM: Ron Bunch for Friends of Family Farmers and Farmers Against Foster Farms
RE: Support of SB 85 – Moratorium on Approval of Tier 2 CAFOs
Date: March 22, 2022

I wish to express appreciation to the Senate Committee for taking on the livability and environmental issues associated with CAFOs in Oregon. However, I am concerned about the proposed amendments to the SB 85-1. The reasons are as follows.

The proposed amendments do not provide enough time for review of the CAFO issue. More than two years is needed to allow state agencies and affected parties to craft solutions to balance the livelihood and economic needs of CAFO owners/operators with their environmental, social, and economic consequences. It's important to take enough time to reach agreements and to develop real solutions. If not, the issue will become more divisive. Without agreement resulting in implementable management measures, future conflicts around CAFOs are inevitable.

The moratorium must also include Tier 1 poultry CAFOs. From this perspective a significant issue with CAFOs is their density within a geographic region regardless of size. Also, if Tier 1 CAFOs are not included, then the sites on which they are located can later be developed to accommodate larger Tier 2 CAFOs after the moratorium period is over.

Those of us of who's families farmed and ranched a few decades ago have seen enormous changes in the way that agriculture has changed from both the natural resource, economic and social perspective. For example, the changing weather – more extreme and unpredictable – and increasing population are causing scarcity of basic quality of life factors in both the natural resource and civic realms. Unregulated, industrial scale contemporary CAFOs are examples maladaptation to these changes.

The state was able to address the timing, place and manner of other agricultural land uses such as cannabis grows, wineries, agricultural tourism and even destination resorts. It can take the time to do so with CAFOs.

Thank you all for your diligence and service.