

Pamela Fitzpatrick
Eugene
Support - SB-85-1; oppose SB-85-3 (poultry only)
Senate Committee on Natural Resources

March 21, 2023

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Pamela Fitzpatrick and I reside in Eugene.

I support the original Factory Farm Moratorium bill (SB 85-1). This bill is already a minimalist bill and I do not support any reduction to its scope. I do not support the new amendment (listed as SB 85-3 on OLIS) which focuses only on poultry and has a sunset date of 2 years. It will be nearly impossible to produce any meaningful regulations in two years.

In Morrow County groundwater contamination has been linked to the large dairy CAFOs. Those CAFOs did not, on their own, design systems to prevent such pollution. The state, with lax regulations, did not prevent such pollution. We need strong, comprehensive regulations with state staff to inspect frequently and fine or close down CAFOs if regulations are not being followed.

The dairies of Yakima Valley did not stop groundwater contamination in spite of community complaints. But after a long drawn-out legal battle those very same dairies were found guilty of polluting on multiple fronts and are now, with oversight, making changes that are at the very least reducing groundwater pollution. It can be done. But it won't be done without strong, clear regulations and frequent state inspections, and fines/closures if need be.

Groundwater is not, of course, the only issue with CAFOs; and poultry farms are not the only Oregon CAFOs that need immediate increase in regulation. Please stay with the original Factory Farm Moratorium SB-85-1.

We are already very late.

Thank you for your work, Pamela Fitzpatrick