

Submitter: Isabella OConnor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee
From: Isabella O'Connor
Re: Support for SB85-1, the factory farm moratorium bill

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

My name is Isabella and I live in Portland. I previously submitted a comment, but wanted to reach out again to let you know that I support the -1 amendment to SB 85, but I oppose the -3 amendment.

I am very concerned that people are framing the issue of factory farms in Oregon of one that simply relates to chickens, when this is simply not the case. The large dairy CAFOS in Oregon are also just as terrible for human, animal, and environmental wellbeing.

First, there are many environmental justice issues associated with Big Dairy. Oregon's largest dairy factory farms are in rural Latinx communities, and these communities disproportionately suffer the adverse effects of the pollutants they emit. For example, Lost Valley Farm, a mega-dairy that was located in Morrow County, had over 200 environmental violations in its first year of operation. Despite the disaster at Lost Valley, the state is considering permitting another mega-dairy, Easterday Farms, in the exact same location. Even with no animals on site, Easterday Farms mega-dairy is violating groundwater pollution limits. Additionally, Oregon's mega-dairies produce pollutants like ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and other hazardous fumes and particulate matter, and the workers and surrounding communities are exposed to these dangerous air pollutants and have contracted documented cases of asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic bronchitis. How could we possibly allow this?

In short, please find it in your heart to support SB 85-1.

All the best,

Isabella O'Connor