

Submitter: Ann Turner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

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

My name is Dr. Ann Turner. I am a retired physician and a member of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. As a physician, I am concerned about the health impacts of climate change and the air pollution that almost always accompanies it.

I am in strong support of the original Senate Bill 85 with its dash 1 amendment only. I strongly oppose the bill with the dash 2 amendment. The dash 2 amendment completely guts the effectiveness of the bill by excluding mega dairy farms and applying only to chicken farms and being in effect for only 2 years. How many more IPCC reports do we need to tell us that we must eliminate fossil fuels, including methane, emitted from animal waste in factory farms. Methane warms the climate by trapping heat 86 times more effectively than CO2 in the first 20 years. We don't have 20 years. In fact, we have less than 10 years to prevent the most devastating health impacts of climate change, impacts that fall most heavily on communities near these factory farms. According to the United Nations and almost all scientists, climate change is the single greatest threat to public health. Air pollution is responsible for 8.7 million deaths worldwide.

Mega dairies in Morrow County have created air pollution and contributed to climate change as well as putting family farms out of business. We must protect these vulnerable communities, communities that already have some of the worst health outcomes in the state, from the climate and air pollution of large factory farms.

I urge you to not support the -2 amendment to SB 85-1 because it would cut mega-dairies out of the bill, and it shortens the sunset to only two years. We all know that two years is nowhere near enough time to adequately address all the issues around Tier 2 Large factory farms in Oregon. Please don't cave to industry pressure and weaken this bill.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Ann Turner, MD

Member Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Portland, Oregon