

March 22nd 2023,

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources

RE: Oregon Senate Bill 85 and -2 Amendment

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and members of the committee,

My name is David De La Torre, I am the Healthy Climate Program Director at Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. We are an organization of over 2,400 health professionals and public health advocates statewide working collaboratively with community partners to educate and advocate for societal and policy change that protects human health.

Oregon PSR would like to urge members of this committee to support SB 85-1 and keep the bill strong. SB 85, with the -1 amendment, would put a moratorium on the largest new and expanding factory farms in Oregon. We strongly reject the dash 2 amendment and urge you to move forward with only the -1. 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.

As the Healthy Climate Program Director, I have seen the impacts of air pollution from industry seeking to maximize profits in this extractive economy. The cost of such industry is in the water we drink and the air that we breathe, as well as the long-term health costs of everyday people just trying to work and live nearby. Factory farms, for instance, create increased exposure to air pollution for workers and community members living near the facilities. The air pollution is categorically toxic and includes particles, volatile organic compounds, and gasses such as hydrogen sulfide and ammonia.

The American Public Health Association has called for a moratorium on new and expanding factory farms to protect public health. We stand with APHA and the plethora of public health advocates who have already provided testimony on this bill in Oregon, and we encourage our lawmakers to enact a legislative moratorium on new and expanding factory farms in Oregon in the 2023 legislative session.

Thank you,

David De La Torre
Healthy Climate Director

