

Submitter: Robert Kircher

Committee: Senate committee on Natural Resources

Measure: SB 85

Dear Chair Golden and members of the senate Natural Resources Committee

I am submitting testimony today in strong opposition to SB 85, I am a first generation Dairy farmer in the Willamette valley. For the past several years there has been a lot of negative scrutiny against CAFO's in Oregon. Oregon has one of the strictest CAFO programs in the country. We currently employ close to 50 full time people, many of which have been with us for many years, working to take care of animals is a 24/7, 365 days a year job. Agriculture in Oregon was recently hit with having to pay ag overtime, many people do not understand or know that we do not get to set our prices for the products we produce, thus making it hard for farmers to pay the extra wages in overtime. We pride ourselves in doing a good job with manure management, animal care and producing a nutritious high quality product to feed the people of the northwest, and the world. Many dairies have shut down in Oregon because of increased operating costs and low prices for the milk they produce. With inflation, current milk prices are not sustainable to cover the increased costs for labor, feed, equipment and all the other expenses it takes to make milk.

I do believe we have a serious problem with people not understanding where food comes from and what it takes to produce it. Has anyone looked into the economic impact if all the CAFO's in Oregon stopped producing food??, Our populations of people continue to grow, how will we feed this growing population?? Food in the stores is at an all-time high right now, implementing more regulations on CAFO's will only make food more expensive and less available to the general public.

I do understand the implications of this matter with a proposed new broiler operation, however I do not believe this is the right way to go about trying to stop it with legislation that will affect the rest of us good standing CAFO operators.

Please, I urge you to oppose SB85

Thank you

Robert Kircher

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