

Submitter: Jessica Park

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Jessica Park

Re: Support for SB85-1, the factory farm moratorium bill

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

My name is Jessica Park, and I live in Gaston. I support a strong factory farm moratorium in Oregon. I support the -1 amendment to SB 85 and oppose the -3 amendment.

It is clear the harms factory farms inflict on Oregon are not just a chicken issue. We need a strong moratorium bill that would halt the spread of mega-dairies in eastern Oregon and protect environmental justice communities nearby, which are already struggling with heavily contaminated drinking water and other pollution.

Oregon's 11 mega-dairy facilities produce over 17 million kilograms of methane every year — the same as the emissions from 318,000 passenger vehicles.

Oregon's 11 mega-dairies use over 8 million gallons of water a day just for washing cows and for drinking water — the equivalent of a small city.

Morrow County, home to several of Oregon's largest mega-dairies, suffers from groundwater contamination due to nitrates that have been linked to mega-dairy waste and runoff. Nitrates in drinking water increase risks of thyroid disease and several types of cancer.

Oregon's mega-dairies produce pollutants like ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and other hazardous fumes and particulate matter. Workers and surrounding communities are exposed to these dangerous air pollutants and experience health problems such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic bronchitis, and cancer. A full factory farm moratorium would protect these communities from the cancer-causing drinking water and toxic air quality that threatens their health.

Leaving mega-dairies out of the bill is an appalling environmental injustice at a time when impacted communities in eastern Oregon need urgent help. Oregon needs a time-out on factory farms, and that must be a full factory farm moratorium as proposed in SB 85-1.

Please support SB 85-1.

Sincerely,
Jessica Park
Volunteer with Food & Water Watch