

March 23, 2023

Support for the SB 85 - Factory Farm Moratorium

Dear Chair Gold and the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Susan Richman and I live outside the town of Willamina, in Yamhill County. I did not grow up on a farm but I do farm now. I am working to restore the soil and the water cycle on my farm with the intention of teaching others how to do the same. SB 85 is critical to protect not only our rural communities, but our ability to respond to variable weather and hotter summers. The -3 amendment does not go far enough to preserve our precious state's natural resource of productive farmland, of tourism drawn to our agrarian communities, and of our farmers who farm for Oregonians today and tomorrow. The committee should support the strongest version of this bill and vote SB 85 out.

These facilities come in with money, outcompeting our own small and mid-sized family farms. Decentralized farming is Oregon's super power. Our tourism is based on the draw of our agrarian economy. More and more Oregonians are buying and eating locally produced food. In the event of any type of pressure or crisis in the food system our small, distributed farmers can be far more resilient than any concentrated animal facility. That resilience is threatened by the use of resources these factory facilities monopolize or threaten. Any concentration of livestock creates conditions that contaminate the soil and water while increasing the risk of disease. In addition, the state's meat processing infrastructure is already challenged post Covid making it difficult to get local meat processed as needed. These factory farms will push out all but the big producers. The result is the loss of our farmland, our clean precious water, our beautiful agrarian environment, our health, and our ability to respond to future food crises.

So I urge you to vote for the future of Oregonians by voting for SB 85 with the -1 amendment in the upcoming 2023 Legislative session. Please stand for Oregon's small to mid-size family farms.

Sincerely,
Susan Richman

Belle Mare Farm, owner
Friends of Family Farmers, Board Chair