

March 23, 2023

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and Members Prozanski, Brock-Smith, and Taylor,

Regarding SB-85 amendment 1:

It is important to note that passing SB85-1 will not endanger any jobs or businesses existing in the state. The scope of SB 85-1 is limited to new Confined Animal Feeding Operations or expansions, and in no way restricts renewal of permits for existing Confined Animal Feeding Operations, as long as the operation does not seek to expand.

I live in Tillamook County, and want to note that while the dairy industry here is significant, most of the farms here are orders of magnitude smaller than the size defined as a CAFO. One of the top producing dairies in Tillamook County, [Jenck Farm](#), has a total of 330 mature milking cows— they could expand by more than 700% before triggering any regulation under this bill.

But they are unlikely to do so, because they are part of Tillamook Dairy Co-op, which expresses that they needed to expand their co-op outside of Tillamook County because “while there’s no limit to the ingenuity, hard work and commitment of Tillamook County’s people, [there is a limit to its natural resources](#). It’s an environmentally sensitive area and natural resources are constrained.”

Especially when it comes to water availability, that’s even more true on the Eastern side of our state, where most of the biggest cattle and dairy farms are located. I’d like to point the committee to testimony by [Kristin Ostrom of Oregon Rural Action](#) and [Alice Morrison of Friends of Family Farmers](#) as to why residents and small farmers in other parts of the state need to have the Oregon Department of Agriculture consider the limits to their natural resources too.

SB 85-1 is a common sense element in protecting Oregon residents, climate, and natural resources.

Thank you,
Helena Birecki
Climate Reality Project volunteer

Reference Links:

- 1) https://www.tillamookheadlightherald.com/community/headlight-herald-dairy-feature-jenck-farms/article_11ff2726-346f-11ed-a4b2-273d6391b305.html
- 2) <https://www.tillamook.com/faq/on-the-farm/are-all-your-farms-based-in-tillamook-or>
- 3) <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/80571>
- 4) <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/63565>