

March 23, 2023

RE: Please Support SB 85-1, a Moratorium on New CAFOs

To Chair Jeff Golden, Vice Chair Fred Girod, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

I write today to implore you to pass SB 85 with the -1 amendment. To do anything else puts at risk the health and safety of Oregonians. I have listened to the hearings and read most of the considerable testimony on this bill, and it is clear that Oregonians want a moratorium on new CAFOs until our state agencies are able to adequately assess and establish regulations to protect Oregonians from the air, water, and soil pollution caused by largely unregulated factory farms. The evidence of this pollution is overwhelming and has already been submitted to you by numerous experts.

I live in Wasco County, downwind and downstream from an existing CAFO. I have driven through Morrow County as I travel east and I can smell the facility from miles away. I will not stop in the area, nor would I drink the water within miles of that facility. I'm lucky; I get to go THROUGH the area. What about those who have to LIVE there and worse, WORK in that CAFO? They cannot get away. I realize that SB 85 will not affect existing CAFOs like the one in Morrow County, but you have an opportunity to prevent more such facilities from taking advantage of Oregon's lax regulations on factory farms.

The -3 amendment that has been proposed for SB 85 is a cop out. Dairy, swine and other CAFOs are no less of a danger to us than poultry CAFOs. If you look at the testimony that has been submitted, it will become obvious there is one primary reason for opposing this bill – money. Nearly all of those opposing SB 85-1 stand to benefit financially from fewer regulations on mega-animal farms. While I support opportunities for businesses to thrive in Oregon, it should NEVER be at the expense of your constituents' health or our shared environment. This should be a very simple litmus test for every vote you take.

There are times when compromise is appropriate, but this is not one of them. Please do the right thing and pass SB 85 with the -1 amendment to establish an 8-year moratorium on all new CAFOs while our state agencies figure out how to monitor and regulate the adverse impacts these businesses have on human health, environmental health, and animal welfare.

Respectfully,

Debi Ferrer
The Dalles, OR