

3/21/23

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Gillian Gifford Short

Re: Support for SB 85- the factory farm moratorium bill

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

My name is Gillian Gifford Short, and I live in Applegate OR.

I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. **I am a small scale dairy and meat farmer in Southern Oregon** and I have witnessed the negative environmental impact of Large Tier CAFO permitted farms.

I live near one of these Large CAFO dairies that operates in Josephine county. It is a dreaded day when we have to farm outside and the dairy is spraying from the waste lagoon. The air quality and stench can be unbearable at times and it spreads tens of miles in each direction. This dairy, its thousands of cows, multiple lagoons, and **many of its spray fields are located in a flood plain on the Applegate River**. The manure that is sprayed onto fields contaminates groundwater and our river. In the last 5 years, and possibly longer, this operation has illegally dumped their waste lagoon directly into streams, wetland and the river. There is **documented E-coli contamination and poor water quality down river** from the dairy. The dairy was ordered to pay over \$30,000 in fines, but eventually ODA struck a deal with this dairy and very little has been done to improve their operation, they continue to expand, and their fines have been reduced in that deal.

The ODA has flagrantly ignored violations from this operation and has forced local residents to become whistleblowers. Many leaders and regulators claim that they are weeding out the bad actors, however, they ignore that the model of the mega farm is inherently set up to become an environmental disaster and that many of the **megafarms blatantly ignore regulations, disregard their waste management plans and make deals with the authorities who regulate them**.

The current permitting process for these facilities does not do enough and the -3 is still not enough to protect Oregon's soil, water and communities. We need to support small and mid size farms who are struggling to make ends meet and prevent mega farms from pushing them out of the industry. "Go Big or Get Out" should not be the narrative anymore in rural communities. **I urge you to support SB 85 with the -1 amendment in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and midsized socially and ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.**

Sincerely,

Gillian Gifford Short

Owner/Operator

Rogue Artisan Foods LLC