

Submitter: Tarun Bishop

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I write in strong support of SB 85-1, and in strong opposition to the proposed amendments that would limit it to two years and confine the ban to new poultry facilities.

CAFOs are a leading cause of environmental degradation, negative human health impacts, worker safety risks, business monopolies, and animal abuse. Animal agriculture is a leading water contaminant and air pollutant, with extremely high emission rates of carbon dioxide, methane (which has a global warming potential 25 or more times that of carbon dioxide), and other pollutants. Studies have shown that animal agriculture causes more than half of carbon emissions. Water contamination and air pollution give rise to a host of mental and physical health risks, including cancer risks. Additionally, poor communities and communities of color disproportionately bear the impacts of water contamination and air pollution from CAFOs. Non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics on factory farms have been linked to human health problems as well. Employees on factory farms have undergone serious mental and physical health and safety impacts from working in such a fast-paced unsanitary environment. Factory farms are also driving family farms out of business, as only 2.5% of farms in Oregon make up 70% of Oregon's agricultural sales. Finally, factory farming is one of the largest animal welfare issues in existence, with animals forced to undergo painful procedures without anesthesia, crammed into barns, and forced to grow unnaturally quickly and live in unsanitary conditions; dairy cows and chickens are among the most abused land animals on factory farms, and the very few laws that govern farmed animal welfare are far more difficult to enforce when farms are operating at such a large scale.

SB 85 is supported by nearly 75% of the public. We must not allow large corporate interests to override public interests. For the sake of animals, people, and the environment, please pass S.B. 85-1. Thank you very much.