

Submitter: Courtney Stone
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB85

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and Esteemed Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Courtney Stone and I am the owner of Livewood Acres in Deadwood, Oregon, a small family farm focused on providing locally grown food to our family and community. I am writing to express my wholehearted support for SB-85, the factory farm reform bill currently under consideration by the Oregon Legislature.

As an Oregonian, I believe that our state should prioritize the protection of our environment, animal welfare, family farms, and frontline communities. While I would prefer the passing of SB 85-1 to ensure enough time to develop responsible policy direction, I support SB 85-4 as a step towards addressing the immediate impacts of factory farming on our state.

It is essential to prevent the expansion of factory farms until we can guarantee adequate protections for our communities. We must work to ensure that small farmers are not burdened while allowing large CAFOs to produce more waste than they can manage. Oregon's future must be based on small family farms that contribute to rural economic stability and foster thriving communities. A healthy food system is vital to the wellbeing of our communities, agriculture, and state; as such, community-based agriculture that provides safe food to all Oregonians must be emphasized and promoted.

The economic development of our rural communities is crucial, and small family farms are integral to achieving that goal. They pay taxes, employ people, and buy inputs locally, unlike the gigantic facilities often owned by out-of-state folks who do not invest in our communities. Furthermore, the environmental impacts of these large CAFOs limit the number of people willing to live and do business in rural communities.

Land use is another critical issue that must be addressed. These facilities are encroaching on areas that are unsuitable for this type of industrial agriculture. Essential measures, such as setbacks from homes, schools, community gathering places, and fish-bearing streams, must be established to keep our rural communities healthy and vibrant.

I urge you to continue working to craft strong regulations for the largest CAFOs in the 2023 Legislative Session. This effort will protect our small and mid-sized, socially and

ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Courtney Stone
Livewood Acres