

Submitter: Meredith Bell  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB85

My name is Meredith Bell and I live in Portland Oregon, and farm a small vineyard in Oregon City.

I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm reform in Oregon. Although I would prefer that SB 85-1 was passed to give ample time for responsible policy direction, I want to voice my support for SB 85-4 as a start to addressing some of the most immediate impacts of the influx of factory farms we are seeing in our state. We must take action to halt the expansion of factory farming in our state until we have protections in place for the environment, animal welfare, family farms, and frontline communities. But we must also keep working on the current proposal to make sure it does not put a new burden on small farmers for the sake of allowing large CAFOs to produce more waste than they can handle.

Oregonians have a right to clean air, water, and food, and know that a healthy food system is integral to the well-being of our communities, our agriculture, and our state. We envision Oregon as a place where small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities. As a farmer myself, climate change has already had a drastic effect on my farm. The forest fires in 2020 ruined my entire grape crop and the spring frost in 2021 led to 30% yields that year. And factory farms are huge contributors to our warming climate.

I urge you to continue to work with Friends of Family Farmers and their coalition members to craft strong regulation for the largest CAFOs in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and mid-sized socially and ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Meredith Bell  
Farmer & Winemaker  
Statera Cellars and EST Wines