

Submitter: Bogdan Caceu
On Behalf Of: La Creole Orchards
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB85

Date: May 6th, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Rules

From: Bogdan "Beau" Caceu

Re: Support for SB85

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

My name is Bogdan "Beau" Caceu. I live in Salem, Oregon and I farm in Polk County near Dallas, Oregon. I grow olives and produce extra virgin olive oil and other value-added products derived from olives.

I support factory farm reform in Oregon. Although I would prefer SB 85-1 were passed to give ample time for responsible policy direction, I want to voice my support for SB 85-4. We need to begin to address some of the most immediate impacts of the influx of factory farms we are seeing in our state. We need to 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. We also need to work on the current proposal to make sure it does not put a new burden on small farmers while allowing large CAFOs to produce more waste and waste more resources.

This type of industrial ag production takes more than its fair share of water resources. At La Creole Orchards, we have had to work around a diminishing aquifer that yields only a few hundred gallons per day. We did so by investing (with support from the NRCS) in water storage, to harvest thousands of gallons of rainwater, and we carefully allocate water to our olive trees via super-efficient drip irrigation. We feel strongly that our way of farming is much more respectful of natural resources.

Factory farms are often owned by out of state investors who have no tie to our farming community. They do not buy their inputs locally. Again, our way of farming is much more respectful of our rural communities.

Factory farms are moving into areas that are not suited to their type of industrial agriculture. Set backs from homes, schools, community gathering places and fish

bearing streams are essential to keeping our rural communities healthy and vital.

Therefore, 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,

Bogdan "Beau" Caceu
owner
La Creole Orchards