

Submitter: Susan Nackoney
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB85

Date: May 6

To: Senate Committee on Rules

From: Susan Nackoney

Re: Support for SB85

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

My name is Susan Nackoney, and I own and operate a small organic vegetable farm in Boring, OR.

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.

As an organic farmer, I care deeply about the methods of farming and support methods that protect water, soil and air quality.

All Oregonians have a right to clean air, water, and food.

This scale of industrial production takes more than its fair share of water resources, I'm deeply concerned about the future of water availability in the west in the future. Some of my colleagues to the south and east have had to cease farming their land altogether because of drought and lack of irrigation allocation. We all need to be thinking about the future of water availability in our region and stewarding it wisely.

Climate change is already impacting my farm with unpredictable weather, winds that destroyed a greenhouse, evacuation from wildfires and smoke. These facilities are a big contributor to ecosystem and climate disruption.

I envision Oregon as a place where small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities. My customers know that a healthy food system is integral to the wellbeing of our communities, our agriculture, and our state. My products are in high demand at farmers markets.

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,
Susan Nackoney
owner/farmer
Gentle Rain Farm
Certified organic by Oregon Tilth