



May 4, 2023

**TO:** Members of the Senate Committee on Rules

**FR:** Sharla Moffett, Oregon Business & Industry

**RE:** SB 85

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OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

OBI opposes SB 85 and the -4 amendment being considered.

The -4 amendment would place heavy limitations on animal agriculture operations. It essentially puts the Legislature in charge of determining how to regulate these operations rather than deferring to state regulatory agencies to determine appropriate permit requirements that are sufficiently protective.

Oregon's permitting programs regulating animal agriculture are rigorous and compliance rates are consistently high among producers. Proponents of the heavy-handed regulatory approach in the -4 lack an understanding of the current regulatory structure since protecting water resources is emphasized heavily in the regulations.

Given the rigorous regulations and high compliance rates related to animal agriculture, we question whether the proponents' concerns are truly about protecting resources or whether the goal is to significantly curtail animal agriculture in Oregon.

Local food production is already constrained and we fear that the -4, without scientific or policy basis, would diminish production to the point that animal agriculture is no longer viable in Oregon, since agriculture operations are closely connected and dependent on one another.

This arbitrary regulatory approach puts local food production operations at risk, but it also places our local food supply in peril. Having access to locally-produced food means that we know more about how our food is grown, it supports local producers and also lowers greenhouse gas emissions since food is transported shorter distances.

The bill's framework proposes arbitrary thresholds and drastically changes land use regulations on land currently zone exclusively for agricultural use. In short, the bill would create dramatic impacts on the agricultural sector that are unnecessary and appear to be a solution in search of a problem.

We urge the committee to oppose SB 85 and the -4 amendment.