

Submitter: Estelle Voeller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB85

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

My name is Estelle Voeller, and I live in rural Jackson County.

I support SB 85 -4

I value our small family farms and buy locally from them to supplement the food I grow. They provide economic stability and healthy nutritious food, enhancing life for community members. They reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the transport of food locally, and many use regenerative principles to reduce further emissions and helpfully sequester carbon through their practices. We need to protect and support them.

I support 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 Oregon 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.

In my area, as well as much of Oregon, drought is a serious issue. Last year my irrigation district could only supply water until mid-July. Large scale industrial production uses more than its fair share of water resources, and should not be allowed to go into areas where water is limited, and threaten established or new small scale farmers.

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

I urge you 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,
Estelle Voeller
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