

Submitter: jim Wells
On Behalf Of: Gaia
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

I am an Oregonian and I urge you to support a moratorium on factory farms, SB 85.

I agree with all the points that the Center for Food Safety has made in their urgings of you to do the same.

To which I will add, but first some creds:

1. I am a trained biomedical research organic chemist with independent laboratory experience in that field.
2. I was a pioneer in the distribution of organic produce in the PNW, from farms to food buying clubs, corner markets, and fledgling organic produce distributors. Among my cap feathers during that time was that I was the Fairy Godfather of what is now Organically Grown Company (which, as you know, began in Eugene but has its primary facility in Portland and) is one of the largest organic produce distributors in the nation.
3. I was one of a handful of published industrial hemp advocates in Oregon in the late 80s and early 90s, convincing a former Speaker of the Oregon House (a sheep farmer) to become a convert to the cause, and the Editorial editor of the Oregonian (despite his thrice rejection of it) to publish an op-ed that I estimate was responsible for 5% of the vote in favor of the first successful "Marijuana" Initiative (despite its faults, which I had urges be addressed before submitting it, and I find the modern "hemp" industry to be regretfully devoid of an industrial component.)
4. For 15 years, I was a non-commercial, bioregional, farmer in McKenzie Bridge, seed-saving/breeding/conserving food varieties that would otherwise have gone extinct, at the end having worked up to more than half of the food I ate.
5. As part of that self-sufficient-aspiring lifeway, I became an accomplished amateur wild mushroom picker. I was one of two visionaries that first realized that soil fungal communities were responsible for plant vigor.
6. I became the world's Leading Oregon Truffle Specialist. saving the Oregon Truffle industry from going down the toilet.
7. I developed from scratch, literally with my own hands and back, the program of large volume supply of fresh pears to the nation's Food Bank system. They were not organic, because they were from the Rogue Valley, where requisite volumes of organic pears were (nor are) available.
8. And that ain't all.

In other words, I am not a slouch, nor an armchair philosopher nor only a keyboard warrior. Although I am acutely philosophically motivated, I am yet creatively practical. I strongly believe that Regenerative Agriculture is the ONLY possible agriculture that

can be sustained -- since, on a large scale, it accomplishes what even regular or organic farming cannot and does not accomplish (which is, at best, to merely not further degrade soils.) And chemical farming (even "no till") only degrades soil.

AND REGENERATIVE FARMING WORKS BEST, BY FAR AND AWAY, WHEN IT INCORPORATES ANIMAL HERDING IN ITS ROTATIONS.

It is my opinion that "factory farms" and "confined animal feeding operations" can be combined and re-structured to be win-win-win-win-wins, making 180 degree turns 'till the cows come home (all puns intended)