

Submitter: Brooke Crouch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Brooke Crouch, and I live in SE Portland in Senator Taylor's district. I strongly support a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. I am writing because I believe that passing the factory farm moratorium would result in so many positive changes - for our environment, our small farms and rural communities, and our animals.

Factory farms are some of the largest contributors to climate change-inducing greenhouse gas emissions in our state. A Food & Water Watch report found that the 11 mega-dairies we currently have in Oregon produce over 17 million kilograms of methane every single year. That is the same as more than 300,000 cars on the road.

It's not just the amount of cows that lead to increased methane emissions - it is the manure management practices of these facilities. On a factory farm, manure is stored in lagoons, rather than distributed naturally on the ground in a pasture-based situation. One ton of manure from an industrial dairy produces more than twice as many emissions as the same amount of manure from a small dairy farm.

I believe that climate change is the most important issue of our time. From the wildfire smoke we experienced this summer in Portland, to our statewide mega-drought that only continues to worsen, we are already feeling the impacts of climate change. If we don't act now, what kind of future are we creating for ourselves and generations to come? You have the opportunity to be climate leaders - but being a climate leader means acting to halt factory farming in Oregon.

I urge you to vote for SB85 in the 2023 legislative session to make sure we have a safe and sustainable future for all Oregonians.