

Submitter: Michele Penner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I highly support this bill.

Oregon's local food system is important to me. We must protect our independent family-scale farmers, and new emerging farmers, from the harms of mega-scale corporate factory farms.

Three decades ago, Oregon was home to more than twice as many smaller scale dairies as it is today. From 1992 to 2017, the number of small dairies (fewer than 200 cows) fell by two-thirds. 44 of Oregon's 500+ confined animal feeding operations are already mega-sized, and this 8% of the operations confines nearly 60% of the total farmed animals. Further consolidation will only make it impossible for smaller independent farmers to compete.

We need to learn from the mistakes of other states whose communities suffer from drinking water pollution and decreased health and quality of life. We can't allow Oregon to become the next hotbed for factory farms. Urgent action is needed to protect Oregon from the harms posed by these industrial facilities.