

Submitter: Andrew Damitio

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

As the introduced text of this bill is merely directing state agencies to "study" Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, it's clear that the significant public interest in this bill is clearly signaling regarding whether the state should limit CAFO operations.

While I endorse state agencies studying environmental impacts in principle, I do not wish for the state to limit CAFO operations. In a growing world, it's important that meat production is as efficient and cheap as possible, so everyone can have access to meat at prices that fit their budgets. It simply is not possible to feed the world through pasture raised beef with enormous land footprints.

Furthermore, while CAFOs may have concentrated localized environmental impacts that is the basis for activism against them, they're actually quite beneficial, with lower environmental impacts per calorie than a pasture raised animal. Their sheer size also results in them being regulated as point sources of pollution, and they're thus held to higher regulatory standards than traditional agriculture. While the state of Oregon could probably set higher standards for animal waste management, that shouldn't be used as an excuse to ban said operations outright. The world needs meat, dairy, and eggs. Hopefully in the future we can culture meat and eggs in a lab and render CAFOs obsolete, but that currently isn't the case.

It might seem "green" to ban them, but all that we're doing is banning intensive and productive agriculture that provides needed rural jobs and economic activity to satiate genteel NIMBY concerns. Food isn't immaculately conceived pre-packaged in the supermarket, it comes from intensive agriculture.