

Submitter: Courtney Giordano
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned Oregonian about the possibility of Foster Farms being allowed to open CAFOs with 13 million chickens in rural Oregon. These sorts of farms are devastating to rural communities and horribly inhumane to the animals housed. They routinely contribute the following negative consequences:

Economic Impact:

From an economic perspective, it is essential to recognize the dangers of corporate-controlled agriculture and the importance of small farms to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities. Corporate-controlled industrial animal agriculture like the kind being proposed in Oregon, can have disastrous economic consequences on rural areas. These operations often prioritize short-term profits over long-term sustainability, leading to environmental degradation, health hazards, and economic instability.

In contrast to CAFOs, small farms prioritize sustainable agriculture practices that are beneficial to the environment, public health, and the local economy. These operations can provide a range of economic opportunities for local residents, such as direct sales to consumers, farmers' markets, and community-supported agriculture programs. They also foster economic diversity, resilience, and innovation by promoting collaboration among local businesses and supporting the development of niche markets.

Health:

Factory farms are dangerous for health and the environment. The overuse of pesticides and fertilizers can pollute our rivers and lakes, killing fish and other aquatic life. In other places across the country, excessive use of antibiotics in CAFOs has also led to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, posing a serious threat to human health.

As someone who loves spending time in the great outdoors, I believe it is our responsibility to take care of the land and the creatures that call it home. We cannot continue to prioritize profit over the well-being of our planet and its inhabitants.

CAFO pollution in ground and surface water can contribute to high nitrate contamination in wells make the water in nearby homes undrinkable.

Environmental Impacts:

The environmental impact of factory farms is of great concern to me.

The discharge of untreated or poorly treated poultry waste could increase the levels of harmful pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and pathogens in the river, which could lead to the growth of harmful algae blooms, degrade water quality and endanger public health.

CAFOs are notorious for their negative impact on the environment. They produce massive amounts of waste, which often goes untreated and pollutes nearby water sources. This can lead to the destruction of local ecosystems and harm the health of people and animals in the surrounding area.

Animal Welfare:

The welfare of the animals in these facilities is often severely compromised. In many cases, chickens are kept in cramped and unsanitary conditions, with little access to fresh air or natural light, preventing animals from engaging in natural behaviors, such as foraging, grazing, or nesting. This can lead to boredom, frustration, and aggression.

In order to maximize production and profits, animals in factory farms are often overcrowded. This can lead to increased stress, disease, and injury.

Some factory farming practices, such as tail docking, beak trimming, and castration, are performed without pain relief. These procedures cause pain and distress for the animals.

Factory farming can also cause health problems for animals, such as lameness, respiratory issues, and infections and are exacerbated by the cramped and unsanitary conditions in which the animals are kept.

As an urban dweller who frequently visits rural areas to enjoy outdoor recreation, I have become increasingly aware of the negative impact that factory farming poses to our environment and communities. Our current laws are insufficient to protect this beautiful state.

Sincerely,
Courtney Giordano