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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

4/5 blue zones primary source of nutrition is meat. Oregon has become certified in the blue zones project within four counties. Klamath County was the very first blue zone county in the state of Oregon. They are also one of the top producing counties for beef. MEAT is apart of Blue Zones.

More than 98% of households buy meat. Placing a moratorium on licensing of CAFOs negatively affects the health and bottom dollar of all oregonians. Oregon will be forced to outsource meat which will increase the cost of ALL food, because beef provides hundreds of by products not just meat. This means it will be more difficult for everyone to afford nutritious food, especially the lower socioeconomic status who is already at risk for accessible nutritious food choices. Oregonians will lose thousands of jobs, which affects the economy of our state, which will drive the cost of everything else.

The beef cattle production cycle starts at cow-calf operations, which are independently-owned farms where ranchers maintain herds of cows that are bred to produce calves once a year. The calves spend time on pasture until they are moved to a feedlot around one year old. Typically, cattle only spend the last 100 of their lives on a feedlot, meaning the majority of their lives are on pasture. And when they're at the feedlot, they're upcycling things like the inedible parts of the soy and pea plants (that would just sit in a pile and emit greenhouse gasses) into nutritious food.

A steak from feedlot-finished beef is more nutritious than rice and beans. If we are to solve our growing obesity and diabetes issues, plus provide nourishment to those who are food insecure and need better nutrition, CAFOS in Oregon are a necessity.