

Submitter: Patrick Monroe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Patrick Monroe

Re: Support for SB 85- the factory farm moratorium bill

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

My name is Patrick Monroe, and I live in Corvallis.

I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. We must take action to halt the expansion of factory farming in our state until we have protections in place for the environment, animal welfare, family farms, and frontline communities.

- All Oregonians have a right to clean air, water, and food.
- This scale of industrial production takes more than its fair share of water resources.
- Climate change is already impacting my farm in XYZ way and these facilities are making the problem worse.
- We envision Oregon as a place where small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities.
- Oregonians know that a healthy food system is integral to the wellbeing of our communities, our agriculture, and our state.
- Oregonians want community-based agriculture that delivers safe food to all Oregonians. Emphasize the demand that you have for your products.
- Factory farms monopolize meat processing infrastructure and make it harder for independent farmers to find processing. They also attract more contract only processing facilities to the state not open to other farmers. I have to make my appointment # months in advance and drive # miles for processing. These facilities disincentivize plants from working with small farmers like me, limiting my options even more.
- Economic development for rural communities e.g.: "I pay taxes, employ people, and buy my inputs locally. These gigantic facilities are often owned by out of state folks who don't invest in my community." or " My rural community is held back by these facilities. The environmental impacts limit who wants to live and do business in my town"
- Land Use: e.g.: "These facilities come in with a lot of money and take up EFU zoned land and designated High Value Soils. They outbid local, small and midsize farmers

and then don't use the land for its intended purpose. You don't need High Value Soils to build a warehouse full of 125,000 chickens, and the compaction/damage to the soil will take decades to undo."

I urge you to vote for SB 85 in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and mid-sized socially and ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Patrick Monroe

Produce Manager

First Alternative Food Co-op