

Submitter: Audrey Harrington

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

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Though I am from Salem, I have been in the area countless times, visiting my friends who have an organic farm. It is beautiful; The land is so green and the air is so fresh. You can see your reflection in the water. I have memories of catching insects, racing paper boats in the water, and stargazing in the grass on clear summer nights. It is the perfect place for a child to grow up exploring. Building a concentrated animal feeding operation right by so many people's homes, farms, and even a school will be devastating for the community. It will turn people's lives upside down. Not only this, but the land and the organisms in the environment will suffer. I cannot wrap my head around the fact that some people believe that this is okay. It is telling people that money is more important than their lives. This is not just land, this is home to so many families.

When voting on this bill, I ask you to put yourself into the shoes of the people that you will be affecting. Imagine the affliction when you tell your child that they can no longer go outside and play with their friends. Imagine the disgust when you walk outside of your home and smell the animal waste wafting through the air. Imagine the anxiety when you see your child in pain because of exposure to ammonia. Imagine the heartbreak when you have to leave the place that you have made home because of somebody else's greed. No one should have to be in this position, but this is the sorry truth right now. If this CAFO is built, this will uproot so many people's lives and so I am asking you to please support SB85 for the safety and wellbeing of this community and their children.