



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on Senate Bill 85
Senate Committee on Natural Resources

March 5, 2023

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports Senate Bill 85 with the proposed -1 amendments.

With the -1 amendments, SB 85 would put a moratorium on new and expanded confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) above the size currently specified in Oregon Department of Agriculture rules as "Large Tier II" CAFOs (e.g., 2,500 dairy cows, 3,500 beef cows, 350,000 broiler chickens).

Humane Voters Oregon supports SB 85-1 because, among other negative effects, large CAFOs are bad for animal welfare. Cows, chickens, pigs and other animals are more likely to be intensively confined, without space to move around or access to any kind of free-range environment. They are more likely to be treated as production machines instead of conscious living beings, meaning more intense production demands and a shorter life. For example, chickens in the proposed large chicken CAFOs in Oregon would live fewer than 60 days before being sent to slaughter.¹

Thus, for the sake of animal welfare as well as clean air, clean water, and family farms, we urge you to support a moratorium on new and expanded large CAFOs in Oregon.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Akela Baldwin

Akela Baldwin
Policy Advocate

¹ The Committee will likely hear that various large CAFOs in Oregon have some kind of "humane" certification or rating. However, there are different certification and rating services using different standards, many of which amount to "humane washing." See, e.g., <https://www.farmforward.com/label-guide/>.