

Submitter: Linda Ziedrich

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I support Senate Bill 85, to establish a moratorium on the creation of confined animal feeding operations of immense and unprecedented size in Oregon.

Oregon has much homework to do before permitting the building of these gigantic livestock factories. Please figure out what regulations are needed to protect public health, and put the regulations in place before allowing corporations like Atlas Holdings, the Connecticut-based owner of Foster Farms, to have its way with Oregon.

Here are some questions I've been asking about these businesses. I hope you will ask them, too.

- Should CAFOs be allowed on floodplains? And how close to our rivers can they safely be? Even without floods, runoff, and seepage, these operations have managed to pollute major aquatic ecosystems in England, Maryland, and North Carolina. Governments in these place have taken decades to pinpoint the source of the pollution. Oregon should learn from others' mistakes.
- Will companies like Atlas Holdings be required to clean the air blown by fans out of their chicken barns? What level of emissions will be allowed? The fans blow out ammonia, feathers, feces, feed particles, and microorganisms. These emissions are known to aggravate asthma and cause pneumonia and gastrointestinal disease, and they contaminate soil and water.
- How will we protect spawning fish if we permit CAFOs to poison the waterways with nitrates and promote algal blooms?
- Is it right for CAFOs to be exempted from permit requirements for stock watering? Shouldn't the exemption be limited to farms with far fewer animals? What if the neighbors' wells run dry?
- Should setback requirements be amended to protect the neighbors' health?
- Do these operations plan to use antibiotics, and will the use of antibiotics be permitted? CAFOs are notorious for breeding antibiotic-resistant bacteria. According to the World Health Organization, antibiotic-resistant bacteria is one of the greatest threats to modern medicine.

- Should these operations be treated in Oregon law as industrial rather than agricultural? Why should the corporations be permitted to destroy good farmland in the countryside instead of building their factories in industrial areas near the interstate?

Please protect the health of Oregonians and our ecosystems by supporting Senate Bill 85.