

Testimony RE: SB 85 “. . . to study confined animal feeding operations” /Amendment “to prohibit the proliferation of . . .”

Senate Committee on Natural Resources
Chair Golden, Committee Members:

Having read some of the written testimony, and with sincere respect and gratitude acknowledge all of it, both those opposed and in support of both the bill and the amendment. I hear much truth in it, and my response is what I would call, "the good, the bad and the ugly," and what does it all mean.

This listing of the pros and cons, the "good" and the "bad" noted by people seems accurate, and the graphic below, though not exhaustive, presents some of them.

Factory Farming	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cheap meat production▪ Rather uncomplicated for farmers▪ High profits▪ Space optimization▪ Processes around factory farming are optimized▪ Ensures large variety of meat products▪ Fast meat production▪ High level of automation▪ May strengthen the local economy▪ Meat supply for large number of people▪ Almost no geographic limitations▪ Meat production all year long	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Animals are treated quite poorly▪ Animals might bully each other▪ Low-quality meat▪ Animals are raised to unnatural growth▪ Fast family separation▪ Some animals are killed solely due to their gender▪ Unnatural form of animal raising▪ Genetic engineering might be used for factory farming▪ Fraction of fat in the meat is quite high▪ Meat may be contaminated with antibiotics▪ High level of water consumption▪ Soil pollution▪ Groundwater pollution▪ Global warming▪ Job losses through automation▪ Small farmers may go out of business

Image source with more detailed information <https://environmental-conscience.com/factory-farming-pros-cons/>

The short-term gains and negative impacts are certainly there, but the long-term consequences, relative to "losses" are too. So, one key question becomes are factory farms truly sustainable now and into the future, especially with their associated increasingly negative impacts? In the end, are they really worth it? Here's my two answers.

The first question about sustainability for Oregon, we need to better understand potential impacts, do some research, which is the bill as written without the amendment.

The second question asking is it really worth it, we need to make sure we do no harm in the near future, thus the need for the amendment itself. It's about being careful, taking precautions, and suggests that the "precautionary principle" needs to be applied. This principle essentially puts something on hold until more is known, since the cons could outweigh the apparent pros based on what is learned.

“Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.”

Environmental Protection Agency

This legislation with the amendment therefore addresses the need for such a cautious approach and research needed, a kind of "time-out," based upon the need for all people to live in a sustainable way, and especially for future generations.



Aerial views of CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) industrial "factory farms" in North Carolina, USA

The "ugly" I read in some testimony speaks from the heart, and is a voice of the massive scale of pain, suffering, and cruel conditions and deaths endured by each individual being from existing in industrial scale factory farms to when and how they are killed. This legislation and amendment also responds to their concerns, too. Relevant link <https://youtu.be/c7YVijzeGbs>

Also, and perhaps even most importantly, increasing industrial factory operations would also increase carbon emissions and thus global warming, and in our state, with the associated impacts of extreme summer temperatures, drought, severe wildfires and coastal erosion. [Source: 2023. Sixth Oregon climate assessment. Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.](https://www.oregonclimatechangeinstitute.org/2023-sixth-oregon-climate-assessment)

Finally I offer this quick "big-picture" overview video in 2 and half minutes for your information and consideration . . . that notes "Factory farms use more food than they produce, which leaves less food for everyone else." and "Our choices just no longer have a local impact, their effects are felt globally." <https://youtu.be/7I0v3LhKhQg>

With respect and gratitude to everyone, for we are all connected, to people and animals alike, from the head to my heart, I support SB 85 and the proposed amendment.

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