



Senate Committee on Natural Resources
March 6, 2023
Support of Senate Bill 85 -1 amendment

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our Oregon supporters, I am writing to express our support of Senate Bill 85 with the proposed -1 amendment, which 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).

Animal waste is huge contributor of greenhouse gases. CAFOs generate massive amounts of air and water pollution. An adult dairy cow produces about 80 pounds of feces and several gallons of urine a day. The waste on a CAFO does not get treated in a wastewater treatment. Instead, it sits in open pits to decompose, creating gases that have an adverse impact on the environment.

The difference between an industrial CAFO and a responsibly run independent family farm is stark. Animals on CAFOs are treated like units of production with little regard for meeting their basic needs to move about freely and engage in normal behaviors, whereas they are more likely to be treated humanely on the smaller family operations.

Sustainable agriculture communities reject large farming operations. The cows on CAFOs often live their lives on bare dirt, manure, and concrete. Cows are deprived of the opportunity to graze and engage in normal behaviors and are fed an unnatural diet that maximizes milk production. There is nothing sustainable about confining a significant number of animals together in miserable conditions.

SB 85 -1 will have positive environmental impacts. For the sake of animal welfare, 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 views on this important legislation.

Kelly Peterson
Oregon Senior State Director
The Humane Society of the United States