

Testimony in support of SB 85-1

Thank you, Chair, vice chair, and members of the committee. I'm Casey Kulla, and I served on your large poultry CAFO workgroup during the interim.

One significant thing we learned during the informational hearings with state agencies is that when rural communities, adjacent farms, and struggling river systems suffer industrial pollution from very large confined animal feeding operations, state agencies and local elected officials have very few tools for preventing or stopping that air, water, and soil pollution.

To be clear, there are examples of excellent, well-run large CAFOs who keep animals on impervious surfaces to protect the soil and animal health for part of the year. But, there are terrible examples of very large CAFOs that have polluted our shared land and water. I know that a temporary moratorium on the largest size classes is a crude tool, but in light of the scale of harm, SB 85 with the dash-one amendment represents a path toward certainty for CAFO operators and for the communities of farmers who surround their operations.

This bill should never have to come before you, because we should have a state and local regulatory system that doesn't pit farmers against farmers and other rural residents.

Thank you for listening today!

Casey Kulla
Farmer, Grand Island, Oregon
Former Yamhill County Commissioner
Member, Interim Legislative Large CAFO Workgroup