



March 6, 2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee
From: Holly Hutchason, Executive Director of Pacific NW CSA Coalition
Re: Support for SB 85- the factory farm moratorium bill

Dear Chair Golden, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Holly Hutchason and I live in Portland.

I am writing to you today in support of Senate Bill 85. It has been 30 years since the state of Oregon last updated their CAFO regulations. Since then, the number of CAFOs in this country has gone from a handful to over 21,000. As CAFOs have expanded, so has the body of research examining their effect on our environment, economy, health, and communities.

It is crucial that the Oregon Department of Agriculture can study this research and incorporate it into updated regulations and legislative actions.

CAFOs have long been associated with greenhouse gas emissions, bacterial and viral outbreaks, worker abuse, water and air quality degradation, animal welfare abuse, and food contamination. They have also produced food that is inexpensive. The price of food needs to be balanced with the total socioeconomic impact, and that can only be done with appropriate State regulation. It is unrealistic to expect an agribusiness owner to self-police the safety of their operation.

With agriculture as one of the largest contributors to climate change – and that mostly methane and ammonia derived from CAFOs – it is more critical than ever that these businesses are held accountable for high safety standards. Continuing to issue permits without providing the appropriate regulations and means to evaluate them is irresponsible.

I urge you to vote for SB 85 in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and midsized socially and ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Holly Hutchason

