

Submitter: Erin Maidlow

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Date: 03/06/2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Erin Maidlow

Re: Support for SB 85- the factory farm moratorium bill

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

My name is Erin Maidlow, and I live in Roseburg.

I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. We must take action to halt the expansion of factory farming in our state until we have protections in place for the environment, animal welfare, family farms, and frontline communities.

Having grown up in the Midwest, I've lived near my fair share of factory farms. The air and water quality suffered while residents had no choice but to live with the stench of manure and the murky, contaminated waterways. As a soil scientist, I studied agricultural runoff in the waterways and how they affected the Mississippi Delta in a negative way. Don't let this happen to the clean waters of Oregon. Put a stop to factory farms! Our small farms care about our natural resources and keep Oregon grown products local.

All Oregonians have a right to clean air, water, and food.

This scale of industrial production takes more than its fair share of water resources. Climate change is already impacting farms by affecting the temperature and rainfall, and these facilities are making the problem worse.

We envision Oregon as a place where small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities.

Oregonians know that a healthy food system is integral to the wellbeing of our communities, our agriculture, and our state.

Oregonians want community-based agriculture that delivers safe food to all Oregonians. Throughout the pandemic, support for small farms in Douglas county grew because residents knew they could rely on their local farmers.

Factory farms monopolize meat processing infrastructure and make it harder for independent farmers to find processing. They also attract more contract only processing facilities to the state not open to other farmers. Many meat producers have to make their appointments a year or more in advance and drive 70 miles or more each way. These facilities disincentivize plants from working with small farmers, limiting my options even more.

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,

Erin Maidlow

Executive Director

Umpqua Valley Farm to School