

Submitter: Anita Spaeth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

To those it may concern,

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.

I am in a particularly niche, but important, position regarding this issue as I am an artist. I am currently a graduate student at OSU, and I am using photography and book publishing to depict the social, economic, and environmental value of small and mid-sized farms. My research has me visiting local small and mid-sized farms, learning on location with the farmers. While on location I learn about how supporting small farms, and opposing industrial livestock operations, ultimately supports a sustainable model of localized food systems and community resilience. It is incredibly important that we ensure the integrity of our small, local farming operations as their impact resonates beyond economy and into other cultural values regarding education and creativity. The transparency of small-scale farming operations, particularly in the ways in which they have opened up their arms and pastures for me to learn in, demonstrates their investment in strengthening their communities, and vice versa. Beyond value in terms of economics, these smaller operations stand as powerful models for labor rights and ethics, for humans, animals, and the soil. When we support these smaller models of engagement with one another and the land, we stand firm in our ethical beliefs of ensuring our labor and food sources are ultimately supportive of happy, healthy lifestyles. It goes beyond capital when we insist that our modes of production do not cause further oppression, violence, or exploitation. We are at a pivotal moment in Earth's history when resources are strained, and exploitation stratifies deplorable hierarchical class-based and speciesist systems. As humans we will continue to benefit from livestock, but we must engage in the practice in ways which do not cause further pain or suffering than the moment of slaughter inevitably results in, and in which will ensure laborers do not have to engage in livestock production practices which diminish their sense of well-being or cause emotional turmoil from inhuman conditions and practices regarding the animals. This is to say very little of the devastating environmental impacts attributed to industrial livestock practices. Pardon the crass statement, but we have to have the integrity to reject "hit-it-and-quit-it" approaches that leave few better off, and many worse off, including the health of regional ecologies.

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,

Anita Spaeth

Grad Student|Artist|Educator