

Submitter: Laura King

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Hello,

I am concerned that Oregon is on track to become the Iowa of the West Coast. Today every county in the state of Iowa has issues with nitrates in their ground water. This is attributed to a combination of increasing droughts and hog CAPO industry. I listened to the testimonies on SB 85 this past Monday March 6th. I was moved by the personal stories on both sides of the issue. It is sad to see it has become a dog-eat-dog world for farmers. As one farmer increases their operation many are displaced. Pollution in ground water and rivers impacting fish habitat is real and noted by some but was denied by other farmers. What is the truth?

It is disappointing to see that most of the Oregon representatives for these communities stands against SB 85. Sadly this is not surprising given the unlimited financial contributions that can be made these days to our elected officials. It must be hard to hear the plea of the small farmer or the community members concerned about the negative impacts of CAPOs when one is buried in campaign contributions. As an engineer and manager with over 35 years experience in high tech industry (inclusive of nuclear energy), I understand the high bars and investments required to ensure the industries I worked in met exceptional standards to protect workers and the surrounding communities. It is alarming to me that the Dept of Environmental Quality does not hold agricultural to the same high standards of high tech. I also understand all too well the drive to productivity and striving to deliver low cost to the customer. Part of my career was tasked with downsizing and shipping jobs overseas. My experience in tech and CAPO are NOT sustainable solutions for anyone. What I do believe is that human ingenuity can achieve better and more sustainable industries if we incentivize that. This is what is missing in so many of our industries today. This is how legislative leaders can lead.

SB 85 simply temporarily halts further expansion of CAPOs in Oregon to allow for analysis of the impact of these industries in light of new understanding about them (e.g. Iowa, Boardman Oregon) and in the context of our every changing climate that exacerbates the negative aspects of CAPOs. Legislation to incentivize innovative and sustainable agriculture is also needed.

Thank you,
Laura King
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