

7 March 2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Jo Erikson

Re: Support for SB 85 (The Factory Farm Moratorium Bill)

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

My name is Jo Erikson and I live and farm in Corvallis, Oregon. I am writing to you all today in support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. We must take action to immediately halt the expansion of factory farming in Oregon while we work to create additional and thorough protections to prevent further harm to communities, environment, animals, and farms.

As an organic vegetable seed farmer in the Willamette Valley, the importance of keeping our waters and air clean from contamination is of utmost importance not only for the health of my family and community but also for the health of my farm business.

As you may already know there are numerous negative health effects associated with factory farms. Nitrate from fertilizers and manure infiltrates groundwater and threatens the health of everyone who uses water. Greenhouse and gas emissions, such as methane and nitrous oxide, are released in large volumes by factory farms contributing to climate change and creating toxic air pollution resulting in an increased likelihood of cancer and other respiratory diseases. Farm workers in factory farms are often forced into unsafe working conditions and are disproportionately suffering from all of these adverse effects.

At a bare minimum I urge a moratorium on factory farms in Oregon. There is simply too much at stake and we must protect our climate, our environments, our communities, our home.

Please vote in support of SB 85.

Sincerely,

Jo Erikson
Co-owner, Avoca Seed
Corvallis, Oregon