

I strongly support SB 85, which would place a moratorium on the construction or expansion of factory farms in Oregon until 2031! I support this moratorium because factory farms exploit animals, workers, the environment, and public health, as described below.

### Animals

Factory farms cause needless suffering by confining animals in stressful, overcrowded conditions without access to natural light, fresh air, or pasture. These animals may not have space to turn around, and birds are often unable to spread their wings. Animals are also prevented from engaging in natural behaviors like rooting, wallowing, and foraging, and are often subject to painful procedures like debeaking and tail docking.

### Human Rights

Factory farm workers are consistently exposed to a variety of harmful gases and particulate matter and suffer from repetitive stress injuries. The resulting health effects are well documented and include chronic aches and pains, respiratory disorders, cardiovascular complications, and premature death. Driven by rigid contracts set forth by their corporate partners, factory farms knowingly jeopardize workers' health to maximize profits.

A large percentage of these workers are Black and Brown people, including migrant workers from Mexico and other parts of Latin America. An unknown percentage of full-time and part-time workers are undocumented. Employers find undocumented workers to be ideal recruits because they are less likely to complain about low wages and hazardous working conditions.

### The Environment

A single CAFO can easily produce as much waste as a city, but unlike municipalities, industrial livestock operations aren't required to build sewage treatment facilities to safely process all this waste. Instead, it's stored in open pits called "manure lagoons" and periodically applied untreated to surrounding land.

As a result of weak regulatory policies, waste is commonly mismanaged and overapplied, contaminating ground and surface waters with pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, heavy metals, and pathogens like E. coli, Salmonella, and Cryptosporidium. This pollutes drinking water wells, causes fish kills, spawns toxic algal blooms, and renders local waterways unsafe for swimming, fishing, boating, and other recreational uses.

The facilities have a similarly harmful impact on air quality. Confinement buildings, lagoons, and the processes of spraying or spreading waste on fields collectively emit a host of hazardous air pollutants, including ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and harmful microorganisms. The operations also produce greenhouse gases like methane, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide.

These facilities are intentionally sited in rural areas where residents oftentimes lack the political and economic resources to effectively protect themselves. The operations are also disproportionately constructed near low-income and Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities, constituting an egregious environmental injustice that has persisted for decades.

## Public Health

Health impacts aren't limited to those living nearby. Factory farms contribute to widespread antimicrobial resistance due to the regular administration of nontherapeutic antibiotics to confined livestock to promote growth and prevent disease. This causes the proliferation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which has reduced the effectiveness of medically important antibiotics used to treat humans. Experts also warn that factory farms increase the risk of zoonotic transfer of emerging diseases from animals to people.