



*~ Working to protect clean water, native fish, and healthy communities in the
Rogue River Basin.*

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee
From: Emily Bowes, Rogue Riverkeeper Conservation Director

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

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

My name is Emily Bowes, and I live in Ashland, Oregon. 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, clean water, and family farms.

My role as the Conservation Director of Rogue Riverkeeper is to advocate for water quality and quantity to ensure clean drinking water, healthy aquatic habitat, and abundant recreational opportunities in the Rogue River watershed. Rogue Riverkeeper supports farms that maintain sustainable soil and water conservation practices in their operations and do not pollute. Factory farms drain and pollute Oregon's water resources. The 11 largest mega dairies in the state consume 8.2 million gallons of water a day. Nitrates from fertilizers and manure infiltrates groundwater and threatens the health of those who drink it.

Large scale factory farms fuel climate change by releasing harmful and dangerous greenhouse gas emissions such as methane and nitrous oxide. One ton of manure from a large dairy farm produces more than twice as many greenhouse gas emissions as one ton of manure from a small dairy farm due to manure management practices. Small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities. In the eight years after the state's largest mega-dairy began operations in 1999, more than 600 small-scale dairies went out of business.

I urge you to vote for SB 85 in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect the waterways and drinking water sources in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Emily Bowes
Rogue Riverkeeper Conservation Director