



Sarah C. Vaile
Attorney at Law

March 10, 2023

Re: Testimony on SB 85 Relating to confined animal feeding operations

Dear Chair Golden & Senators of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources,

Please register my support for SB 85. As a young law student, I first learned about the precautionary principle, which as Wikipedia defines better than I can, is a “broad epistemological, philosophical and legal approach to innovations with potential for causing harm when extensive scientific knowledge on the matter is lacking.”

Prudent laws, particularly those regarding public health, take this approach. The issue confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) is at its core a public health issue. CAFOs have a track record of negatively impacting rural communities, and the health and welfare of those that live in them. They degrade air quality, and water quality, and relationships between neighbors and between family farms.

This bill requests that we apply the precautionary principle to CAFOs here in Oregon, and analyze and understand CAFOs and their impacts, on a scientific level and otherwise, before inviting more of these industrial-scale operations into our family farm landscapes and our vital rural communities.

The moratorium on CAFOs, until we have this full understanding, is an essential component of the precautionary principle, and is absolutely what we must do here in Oregon, if we truly care about the health and wellbeing of our children, who are meant to play outside and swim in country creeks.

Sincerely,

Sarah Vaile