

To: Chair Golden and Vice-Chair Girod and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources

From: Barbara A. Jacobson

Re: Support of SB 85 – Moratorium on Approval of Tier 2 CAFOs

Dated: March 11, 2023

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod and Senate Natural Resources Committee Members:

I write today to urge your support of SB 85. There are a myriad of compelling environmental reasons this bill is necessary that have already been eloquently addressed by the testimony of others individuals and organizations. I agree with and echo the arguments pertaining to how factory farming damages the air, the earth and the waterways. The focus of my testimony, however, is on animal cruelty and our moral duty to stop it and to instead treat helpless animals with the kindness, dignity and respect they deserve.

Factory farming is cruel and unnatural. Animals are born into a short life of pain, abject suffering, and torture. The more animals crammed into extremely small spaces to increase volume, and the less done for their care and welfare, the higher the corporate profits. Foster Farms is well known to be one of the worst offenders in this regard. Profit over compassion and human decency is the definition of factory farming. There is no reason to treat these animals in the horrific way they are treated during mass production and ultimate cruel and careless slaughter.

Many say COVID started in the wet markets in China where innocent animals are tortured and murdered in the streets, with blood flowing onto the earth and into the water. The same behavior actually happens in the United States, including Oregon, with the difference being it occurs behind the closed doors of factory farms and slaughter houses. Because we do not see it, we blindly try to believe this horrific cruelty does not occur here, but it does.

Karma is defined, in Hinduism, as the universal causal law by which good or bad actions determine the future mode of our existence. Was COVID, in whole or in part, Karma for our torturous treatment of innocent animals?

Albert Einstein wrote: “ If a man aspires towards a righteous life, his first act of abstinence is from injury to animals.” I am sure he used “man” in the sense of all human kind. The point being, I expect this Committee to be righteous and to follow the advice of Albert Einstein by voting in support of SB 85.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Jacobson