

Submitter: Michelle Burger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Date: March 13, 2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Michelle Burger

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

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

My name is Michelle Burger, and I live in Rickreall.

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, animal welfare, family farms, and frontline communities.

I have a small, organic vegetable farm in Rickreall. We sell our produce directly to consumers at farmers' markets. While there are many things that concern me regarding large factory farms, one of my biggest concerns is the loss of valuable farmland. Land that is designated as prime or of statewide importance is a limited resource. Oregonians have already recognized this and put in place land use regulations to keep farmland as farmland. However, it is not stopping large factory farms from paving over this resource for buildings to house animals. Other land, that is not as valuable for farming, can be used for this purpose. Once the land is built on, we have most likely lost it for future pastures and farm fields.

Other issues that concern me are impacts to the local economy and water resources. Small and midsized farms are more likely to give back to their local economy (labor, purchase of inputs, taxes, charity, livability) than large corporate farms whose benefits often leave the state. Factory farms also take a disproportionate share of water resources. In times of drought, this is critically important. It will continue to be so, as it appears the direction our climate is heading is toward more and longer droughts.

I urge you to vote for SB 85 in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and midsized socially and ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Michelle Burger
Owner/Operator
Bethel Springs Farm LLC