

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I support SB 85 to study the impact if large industrial animal farming operations on our environment. I support Oregon family farmers and understand that these large industrial animal farms are primarily owned and operated by large corporations with the backing of Wall Street investors. The very groups that have and will continue to force family farms and ranches out of business.

Section 2, which ends in 2031, defines the industrial confined animal feeding operations covered by the moratorium that has at least: "(a) 2,500 mature dairy cows; (b) 3,500 veal calves; (c) 3,500 cattle; (d) 8,000 swine that exceed 55 pounds in weight; (e) 30,000 swine that are 55 pounds or less in weight; (f) 1,500 horses; (g) 40,000 sheep or lambs, or a combination thereof; (h) 200,000 turkeys; (i) 125,000 chickens of any type, if using a wet waste treatment works; (j) 300,000 laying hens, if using a dry waste treatment works; (k) 350,000 broiler chickens, if using a dry waste treatment works; (L) 125,000 ducks, if using a dry waste treatment works; or (m) 20,000 ducks, if using a wet waste treatment works."

This bills calls for a moratorium, not a ban and does not close any farms during the study. Even if it did there are only 9 operating dairy farms with more that 2500 cows in Oregon. The median farm size is 270 cows and farms are struggling to make money due to the over supply and low cost of milk in the US.

<https://civileats.com/2019/06/13/is-oregon-paving-the-way-for-more-mega-dairies/>.

Who will survive the financial down turns? The large corporate farms that squeeze out the small farmers and add tremendously to water pollution with their huge operations. Family dairy farms take care of their cows and put the waste to good use.

We need to better understand the overall impact of industrial confined animal feeding operations. As the bill says it is in the best interest of Oregonians to prohibit the proliferation of industrial confined animal feeding operations until the impacts of industrial confined animal feeding operations, including impacts to air quality, climate, water quality, water supplies, small- and medium-sized live-stock farms, community and worker health and animal welfare, have been adequately studied and addressed through laws and rules. To this I would add only economic viability of family farms.

Please send SB 85 out of committee with a 'do pass' recommendation.