



Pacific Green Party of Oregon
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March 14, 2023

Re SB 85: Requiring State Department of Agriculture to study confined animal feeding operations and moratorium of new or expanding CAFOs in Oregon

Dear Senators, Natural Resources Committee,

The Pacific Green Party and its members support SB 85 for the following reasons:

1) It is time for businesses to internalize their costs of operations instead of externalizing them to society at large and the environment. CAFO operations are very destructive for the environment

CAFO production facilities have considerable impacts on the water bodies, air and land surrounding their operations. Areas with pristine rivers and soil, surrounded by smaller communities are particularly at risk.

In light of the growing climate crisis and loss of biodiversity, we no longer want to pay for the clean-up and consequences of business practices that dump their waste in the surrounding area. The true impact of these operations must be evaluated and strict regulations put in place. We no longer want to pay the price of pollution these facilities create.

2) The growing health crisis in America is not one of lack of calories, but of malnutrition. The rates of obesity and diabetes are skyrocketing. Neither the Farm Bill nor the states should continue subsidizing monoculture or CAFO operations that focus only on volume and profits. What we need is a diversified agriculture with subsidies for sustainability and nutritious foods including particularly vegetables.

The argument that we need these destructive and inhumane food production facilities is completely misplaced. CAFO operations are not the only possible solution to food affordability. What we need is livable wages so people can afford basic necessities, including nutritious food. What we are doing here again is externalizing the cost of malnutrition unto society.

3) It is time to recognize that farm animals are sentient beings. The way CAFO operations treat and raise their chickens, pigs and cows is completely unacceptable. The confinement, wounds,

maiming and other conditions these creatures endure during their lifetimes are cruel, disgusting and immoral. The studies mandated by SB 85 need to integrate the immoral way CAFO animals are raised with a survey or research as to alternative modes of food production that respect basic tenets of morality and respect for other beings.

4) CAFO operations, because of the conditions animals are raised in, are particularly unsanitary, requiring vast amounts of antibiotics and other “ingredients” that have demonstrated to have an impact on public health. This is not new information and is becoming increasingly problematic with the rise of multiresistant bacteria. This is another cost of CAFOS that needs to be integrated into their operations.

5) We must also evaluate the environmental justice aspect of CAFOS. It is time that we truly evaluate and make clear the impact of CAFOS on poor and/or underserved communities so they are not the ones paying for the costs of production with their health and quality of life.

In summary, we support SB 85 because all the above costs MUST be integrated in the true costs of production of CAFO products - in order to provide for a valid cost benefit analysis in comparison with other modes of food production.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Paravicini', with a stylized, cursive script.

Nathalie Paravicini, ND
CoChair State Coordinating Committee