



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of SB 85

March 13, 2023

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, Members of the Committee.

My name is Khanh Pham, Representative for House District 46. Thank you for continuing this public hearing today on SB 85. As Oregon continues to increase in size and scale, the expansion of factory farms continues to threaten the health and safety of our frontline communities. Not only do factory farms accelerate the climate crisis we are currently facing, but Oregonians are seeing a firsthand account of the dangerous health ramifications on our communities. A recent study from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) found that factory farm air pollution is responsible for over **12,000 premature deaths**¹, along with the contamination of our local air, water, soil, and livestock.

The harms caused by factory farms do not fall equally on all Oregonians. Factory farms disproportionately impact Black, Brown and Indigenous communities. The communities near the state's biggest factory farms struggle with contaminated well water and poisoned air, as summarized by the [State Innovation Exchange](#)² in their recent study on CAFOs.

Specifically, in Scio and Stayton, some of the largest factory farms in the country have been responsible for the detriment in the health of our integral family farmers in the community. Just eight years is all it took for the state's mega-dairy farms to bankrupt over 600 small-scale dairies within rural communities. A [Lewis and Clark study](#)³ researching the effects of methane production found that one ton of manure from factory farms produces more than twice as many greenhouse gas emissions in comparison to one ton of manure from small dairy farms.

We currently have serious gaps in our regulations that need to be addressed. In the meantime, communities should not have to bear the brunt and suffer to benefit the profit of a few.

Today, I am asking you to prioritize the health and livelihoods of the very communities upon which Oregon's economy survives. A factory farm moratorium would protect your constituents from the cancer-causing water and air toxins that threaten our health. By providing Oregonians with sustainable, ethical agricultural practices, we can pave the path towards a future where Oregonians from all agricultural communities can thrive. Thank you.

¹ *Air Quality–related health damages of food* | PNAS. (n.d.).

Retrieved March 14, 2023, from <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2013637118>

² State Innovation Exchange. (2023). (rep.).

Gaps in Oregon Law regarding regulation of CAFOs . Retrieved March 2023 from https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pP8GnPrzuww70LHsnnFLdYbFiygr_WhxyUo9fOMLtv/edit

³ Keough, P. (2023).

Manure-to-Energy Projects – Greenwashing or a Real Solution to Reducing Methane Emissions from Livestock Production? - Patty Keough. *Environmental, Natural Resources, & Energy Law Blog*. Retrieved from Environmental, Natural Resources, & Energy Law Blog.