

Submitter: Kate Perle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

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

My name is Kate Perle and I live and farm adjacent to the UGB in Eugene Oregon. I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. Agriculture is a cornerstone of Oregon's economy and it must be safeguarded for generations to come. It is reckless to allow damaging practices which can have long term negative effects for us all.

Everyone deserves potable water, clean air and the access to locally produced foodstuffs. To make this a reality we have to "right size" operations so that they can be financially viable, yet responsible to the public. Contaminated water and air do not respect property boundaries but migrate to their own plan. The oversized operations proposed here are far more vulnerable to disaster than smaller, locally supported farm operations.

Oregon needs to play to its strengths to create a resilient future for all residents. One way to accomplish this is to support small local farms in their quest to feed the public, enhance the natural beauty and respect the biological diversity and balance of our rural lands.

The future of food production and consumption will require that we all meet our needs from closer to home. This will require a great diversity of operations all sharing the burden of production and the benefit of community support. Not only are these confined animal feeding operations far from "best practices" for raising animals, they are a waste product nightmare for adjacent residents, a toxic nightmare for watersheds, and an affront to those locals who produce animal products and spend their dollars in their towns creating an improved economy for their neighbors.

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.