

Submitter: Linda Pace

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Dear Senator Golden, Chairperson, and Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 85-1. I am asking you to support this important legislation before Oregon climate and drinking water moves beyond the point of no return.

My family and I live in Southern Oregon. We buy all our food from local farmers who use organic and biodynamic growing methods to produce on small tracts of land that they steward in keeping with the soil and water availability of the unique Oregon landscape. We eat a traditional diet that includes meat, eggs, cheese, yogurt, chicken and eggs. As a grandparent, I am very concerned about what goes into children's bodies both by way of nourishment and breath. I am concerned about the soil and water quality that my generation is leaving behind and whether it will be possible for future generations, including my grandchildren and great grandchildren, to live in Oregon.

I question whether "factory-farms" are legal under SB 100, the Oregon Land Use Act, the charter from 1973 for a livable environment in Oregon. Mega-dairies are industrial production facilities not farms. Yet they are using exclusive farming land, taking precious irrigated land away from food crop and animal growing farmers who have a connection to their soil and water and who provide us with food that doesn't contain antibiotics, hormones and other chemicals, food that doesn't cause genetic abnormalities in our children. In the eight years since Threemile Canyon Dairy began operations, more than 600 family-scale dairies have gone out of business. We now have 11 mega-dairies--I'd like to see them gone but NO MORE, PLEASE.

Industrial chicken/egg production is something I experienced some years ago while living in Georgia. There is no way that any animal, including a chicken can be healthy in such a setting. Sick chickens are sickening those who eat them. The eggs produced by GMO-fed chickens are not what we need to be feeding our children. The air pollution from such industrial chicken producers, contribute large amounts of methane, the most dangerous of the greenhouse gases, and nitrous oxide. Oregon's current industrial dairies produce over 17 million kilograms( a kilogram= 2.2 pounds) of methane gas each year--the equivalent of the emissions of 318,000 passenger vehicles.

As a member of the Water League, an Illinois Valley nonprofit that studies and engages the public on issues relating to water in our area and all of Oregon, I have become aware of the harm caused to clean water by industries. Eastern Oregon is largely high desert and is not, except for riparian areas, an appropriate location for industrial animal factories. The huge agri-businesses, having exceeded available water supplies, are drilling wells of 500 or more feet. Many smaller farmers have seen their 200 foot wells go dry as aquifers are sucked dry by the mega-dairies and alfalfa

producers. Unable to afford the deeper wells, they are selling their land and water rights to the only buyers--the industrial ag corporations. The water being sucked from the deeper wells is "ancient" water, tens of thousands to millions of years old according to testing. This is our heritage--all water is public water in Oregon--and it should be our legacy.

Please pass out of committee the moratorium on "factory-farms" SB 85-1. We have been hood-winked by the industrialists long enough. Future Oregonians yet unborn depend on you as much as we elders for clean, abundant water and breathable air.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.