

Submitter: Linda Hendrickson
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 Linda Hendrickson, and I live in Portland, in Senator Taylor's district. I strongly support SB 85-1, which places a moratorium on Tier 2 CAFOs.

Oregon needs your help to protect our air, water, and family farms, and to reduce the impact of animal agriculture on the climate.

As a member of the Climate-Friendly Food Committee of the Portland Chapter of Climate Reality, I am especially interested in the relationship between food and climate. Oregon is already suffering from the effects of climate change. More cows will lead to more methane emissions, at a time when we need to cut greenhouse gas emissions in every sector, including agriculture.

I watched the informational hearing that was held on February 28, as well as the two public hearings held on March 6 and March 13. I learned some important facts about Oregon law related to farming, and the concerns and fears of Oregon family farmers.

I learned about the stockwater exemption, which means there is no limit for stock drinking water. Animals definitely need to be able to drink as much water as they need. However, the stockwater exemption would allow large Tier 2 CAFOs to come into Oregon and use unlimited groundwater to water their animals every day, and this use of water would take precedence over the senior water rights of all of the neighboring farms. Under current law, there is nothing the neighboring family farms can do about this.

I also learned about Oregon's Right to Farm law, which has two major protection components: immunity from private action, and a prohibition against regulation by local governments. These protections were designed to keep people from moving into a rural area and then suing the neighboring farm over farming activities. But what we are facing is the possibility of huge factory farms moving into Oregon and taking advantage of a law designed for a very different type of farm.

Please vote in favor of SB 85-1 in the 2023 legislative session, and place a moratorium on Tier 2 CAFOs.

Ultimately, if we are to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change, we

need to eat more plants, and far less of the highest methane-producing foods, beef and dairy.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hendrickson