

Submitter: Emily Polanshek

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Esteemed Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources,

My name is Emily Polanshek. I live in Portland and care deeply about what happens on our natural and working lands. I write in strong support of SB 85-1 to enact a Factory Farm Moratorium.

Before becoming a bilingual teacher in Canby School Dist., I worked briefly as a medical interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients whose English was limited. There was one patient who came to mind when I first read about SB 85. His job was washing chickens en masse every day. They hung from the ceiling of a large concrete, semi-open enclosure after being slaughtered and de-feathered. There, he hosed them down with a solution of water and some sanitizing chemical, possibly liquid chlorine, all day long, day after day.

What I remember clearly and painfully was his respiratory distress, which had become more and more severe the longer he was on the job. Procedures used now may have changed, but feeding and processing huge numbers of confined animals for our consumption still have environmental consequences.

Most of us have likely experienced the sight and feel of particulate matter from wildfires in the air we breathe. By not issuing permits to new CAFOs or allowing expansion of existing ones, passage of SB 85-1 should be a positive step towards safe-guarding respiratory health, especially among workers and children. Passage of this bill should stem the increase in pollution of our natural areas, including our atmosphere. In fact, I believe all decisions we make from here on out must decrease climate pollution.

After writing this, I listened to yesterday's round of public testimony before your committee. Many testimonials reinforced my own concerns about air, water quality and the growing climate crisis. I learned a lot and thank you for listening so attentively to each speaker.

Please pass this bill. Help protect the health of our rural communities, workers, and the environment upon which we depend. Clean water, clean air, clean soil; all are essential to support life.

Thank you.

