

Submitter: Andre Gauthier

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 Andre Gauthier, and I live in Dexter, Oregon.

I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. We must take action to halt the expansion of factory farming in our state until we have protections in place for the environment, animal welfare, family farms, and frontline communities.

All Oregonians have a right to clean air, water, and food. They want community-based agriculture that delivers safe food to all Oregonians. Factory farms monopolize meat processing infrastructure and make it harder for independent farmers to find processing. They also attract more contract only processing facilities to the state not open to other farmers. These facilities disincentivize plants from working with small farmers, making it harder for small farmers to survive and thus, limiting communities' access to healthy, local food.

These gigantic facilities are often owned by out of state folks who don't invest in my community. These facilities come in with a lot of money and take up EFU zoned land and designated High Value Soils. They outbid local, small and midsize farmers and then don't use the land for its intended purpose. You don't need High Value Soils to build a warehouse full of 125,000 chickens, and the compaction/damage to the soil will take decades to undo.

I urge you to vote for SB 85 in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and midsize family farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Andre Gauthier