

Date: March 14, 2023
To: Senate Natural Resources Committee
From: Deborah Ferrer
Re: Support for SB 85 – for a Moratorium on Factory Farms

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

My name is Debi Ferrer. I live in The Dalles, Oregon. As a high school biology teacher of 32 years, much of my life has been spent teaching children how to take care of our environment so it will take care of us. It's a very simple principle that even young children can understand. If my tenth grade students were to study both sides of this issue fairly, without political influence, I know that the overwhelming majority would recognize the danger factory farms pose to all of us. It's amazing to me that there is any doubt in the minds of any of our elected officials about this matter.

I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. It is completely irresponsible to allow expansion of mega-dairies or mega-livestock farms until Oregon is able to establish clear and effective regulations to ensure the protection of our groundwater, our air quality, and the welfare of the animals raised on the premises.

From what I've seen in the testimony so far, hundreds of Oregonians have already done a great job listing the many reasons we NEED this moratorium. I have nothing new to add to the facts stacked against factory farms – their extreme damage to the environment, their super-sized contribution to climate change, and their negative impact on family farms like those of my neighbors in Wasco County. Please do not allow corporate agriculture interests to supersede the health, safety, and financial security of your constituents. I urge you to consider the impact your decision will have several generations from now. If you do, I trust you will vote to pass SB 85 in your committee and then work to keep moving it through the legislative process to enact it into law.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ferrer
The Dalles, Oregon