

Submitter: Nathan Moomaw

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Date: 3/14/2023

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Nathan Moomaw - Co-owner, Moomaw Family Farm

Re: Support for SB 85- the factory farm moratorium bill

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

My name is Nathan Moomaw, and I live and farm in Oregon City.

I fully support a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. We must halt the expansion of factory farming in our state until we have strong protections in place for the environment, animal welfare, family farms, and frontline communities.

As a livestock farmer myself, who works extensively with other family-scale livestock farmers around Oregon, I am deeply concerned about how the spread of industrial-scale farming is disrupting our ability to operate long term in this state.

Small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving rural communities, whereas industrial-scale farming operations do the opposite. They pollute rural landscapes, they pay poverty wages, they offer unsafe working conditions, and they extract profits to out-of-state investors, who don't have to live with all the negative effects.

Our farm business is a collective of 6 different family-scale farms around Oregon who each raise livestock at environmentally healthy numbers, and we sell that meat exclusively to families around Portland and Salem. Everything we do is centered in Oregon, from farm to plate, and we consistently have more demand than we're able to fulfil. Oregonians want community-based agriculture that delivers safe food to all Oregonians. We know that a healthy food system is integral to the wellbeing of our communities, our agriculture, and our state.

Large-scale livestock farms monopolize our state's meat processing infrastructure and make it harder for independent farmers like us to find processing. They attract

more contract-only processing facilities to Oregon, which are not open to other farmers. In the 10 years in which we've been operating, the slaughter and processing options continue to shrink, and we now have to make appointments 18 months in advance, which makes it very difficult to grow our business and deal with the natural fluctuations involved in farming.

Industrial-scale livestock operations come in with tons of money from outside investment 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. Taking land with High Value Soils to build a warehouse full of 125,000 chickens is horribly unwise land use. And the smell of these places is atrocious, whether it's the barns full of thousands of animals standing in their own feces or the manure lagoons where all that is collected. No one wants to live, farm, or work near these industrial-scale animal facilities.

I urge you to vote for SB 85 in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and mid-sized socially and ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Nathan Moomaw

Co-owner, Moomaw Family Farm