

**March 15th, 2023**

**To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources**

**RE: Oregon Senate Bill 85 and -1 Amendment**

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and members of the committee,

My name is David De La Torre, I am the Healthy Climate Program Director at Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. Guided by the values and expertise of healthcare and public health, OPSR works to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival. We are an organization of over 2,400 health professionals and public health advocates statewide working collaboratively with community partners to educate and advocate for societal and policy change that protects human health at the local, state, national, and international level. We seek a healthy, just, and peaceful world for present and future generations. **Oregon PSR would like to urge members of this committee to move SB 85 with the -1 Amendment forward with a Do-Pass Recommendation.**

When animals are kept in large, high-density factory farms a large amount of waste is accumulated. Often the amount of waste far exceeds the capacity of nearby farmland to absorb and is disposed of by moving the waste into open or covered pits or manure lagoons which leak nitrates into the groundwater threatening the drinking water of nearby communities. Strong evidence points to a relationship between drinking nitrate contaminated water and colorectal cancer, thyroid disease, neural tube defects and infant methemoglobinemia, commonly known as blue baby syndrome.

In addition to nitrates, pathogens in manure such as Salmonella, Listeria monocytogenes and E. coli are capable of causing severe gastrointestinal disease, complications and sometimes death in humans. The pathogens become particularly dangerous when factory farms administer antibiotics at levels too low to treat disease and the create antibiotic-resistant pathogens. There is scientific consensus that antibiotics administered to food animals contribute to antibiotic resistance in humans. In the US antibiotics are administered to animals at nearly twice the intensity as all of the livestock industries in 30 European countries. Factory farms also create increased exposure to air pollution for workers and community members living near the facilities. The air pollution is categorically toxic and includes particles, volatile organic compounds, and gasses such as hydrogen sulfide and ammonia.

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

The US affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

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# OREGON PSR

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The American Public Health Association has called for a moratorium on new and expanding factory farms to protect public health. We stand with APHA, and we encourage our lawmakers to enact a legislative moratorium on new and expanding factory farms in Oregon in the 2023 legislative session.

Thank you,



David De La Torre  
Healthy Climate Program Director  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

