

Submitter: Elizabeth Voth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

From: Elizabeth Voth

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

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

My name is Elizabeth Voth and I write from Silverton, Oregon.

Despite having a masters degree in education, I work full time in regenerative agriculture because that is where we urgently need more effort, value, creativity, and collaboration.

I work on both livestock and vegetable production farms, for long hours, in all weather, alongside small crews of other dedicated people.

How did I get here?

I grew up in Newberg but spent years in southern California listening to my neighbor talk about the stomach aches she had as a child from drinking water contaminated with agricultural runoff. People there would tell me horror stories about air quality just a decade ago, before regulations were implemented. There also, I worked at the site of a former dairy to remediate the compacted inactive dirt back into healthy soil to grow plants suitable for human consumption again.

The challenge was nearly overwhelming, literally back-breaking, and I could see the efforts would never truly rehabilitate the valley.

Oregonians can learn from examples like that WITHOUT making the same mistakes.

Please envision a network of small farms versus large-scale factory-model operations.

The factory model is 100% inappropriate for animals. Respect for domestic animals includes pasture and fresh air so they can express their natural species characteristics.

Furthermore, factory systems permanently bury soil under pavement and concentrate waste beyond the point of no return.

On the other hand, pastures managed with fewer animals where regenerative vegetation is rotated frequently for new growth, seasonal water flow, and diversified products are ways farmer networks can make reasonable and sustainable livelihoods for their families and customer base in concert with their land.

Please focus on supporting a variety of reasonable size family farms that feature diversified products, regenerative agriculture education, and value for the knowledge and care it takes to raise animals humanely on pasture, in the sunshine and fresh air.

We will all benefit if you resist corporate squandering of ecological balance and act in the best interest of real farmers and future generations who will depend on a clean environment for good local food.