

Submitter: Katie Baltzor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

My husband and I have owned a cattle ranch in Eastern Oregon for the past 35 years. We raise commercial beef cattle and sell our weaned calves around 8-9 months of age. Depending on the weight of our calves, they either go to grass or a backgrounding feedlot. Like most livestock producers, we do not have the facilities to finish feeding out our cattle until they are ready to be processed for food, so CAFOs are essential to our industry.

I am opposed to SB85 and the proposed amendments to this bill. Under these bill, while Oregon studies CAFOs, ODA and DEQ are not allowed to issue new or renew licenses for these operations. It will not even allow any upgrades to existing facilities, which is detrimental in so many ways. Technology is always improving and new methods which could provide more efficiency and less carbon emission would be stopped with SB85. This bill will simply put many of our Oregon livestock feedlots out of business. This not only affects the owners and laborers of the business, but the cattle ranches selling their beef and ultimately the consumer. It will drive up the cost of beef in the supermarket and create over-reliance on out of state food suppliers.

We already have strict regulations on CAFOs, hence SB85 is unnecessary. With cattle being the #2 agricultural commodity in 2020 for the state of Oregon, why are we trying to make it more difficult for the industry? Our calves need somewhere to go when they are weaned and not having access to Oregon's CAFOs will negatively impact our operation, along with other producers. I strongly urge you to stop SB85!