

Submitter: Claire Gates

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

My name is Claire Gates and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am a volunteer with Food & Water Watch. I support a strong factory farm moratorium in Oregon. I strongly support the -1 amendment to SB 85 and strongly oppose the -3 amendment.

Water is one of our most cherished natural resources in Oregon. But the supply is not infinite. Currently, Oregon's 11 mega-dairies use over 8 million gallons of water a day, just for washing cows and for drinking water - the equivalent of a small city.

They also produce over 17 million kilograms of methane every year - the same as the emissions from 318,000 passenger vehicles.

Clearly, the harms that factory farms inflict on Oregon are not just a chicken issue. We need a strong moratorium bill to halt the spread of mega-dairies in eastern Oregon and protect environmental justice for communities nearby. These communities are already struggling with heavily contaminated drinking water and other pollution.

Leaving mega-dairies out of the bill is an environmental injustice at a time when impacted communities in eastern Oregon need urgent help. Excluding dairies from the moratorium is telling the people of Eastern Oregon that they don't matter as much as communities concerned with chicken factory farms in the Willamette Valley, simply because they are less able to show up for hearings in Salem.

Oregon needs a time-out on factory farms, dairies and chickens, and that must be a full factory farm moratorium as proposed in SB 85 -1.

We cannot allow factory farms to proliferate unchecked across our state, especially when it's so clear that Oregon does not appropriately regulate these industrial facilities. Oregon's rural communities and our independent farmers cannot wait. Oregon needs a time-out on factory farms, and that must be a full factory farm moratorium as proposed in SB 85 -1. Please consider the health of all of our communities and do not cave to industry pressure, please support SB 85 -1.

Thank you.