



Support for SB 85-1

March 22, 2023

To: Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, Members of the Senate Committee On Natural Resources

From: Russell Lum, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for Senate Bill 85-1

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and members of the Committee:

My name is Russell Lum, I'm a political organizer for Oregon Nurses Association, and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 85 on behalf of ONA. ONA is a nurses union and professional association representing over 15,000 health care workers and providers, including registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health care, and county health departments across Oregon.

In 2021, our Cabinet on Health Policy, who are nurses and the statewide leaders of ONA's policy decisions, voted to weigh in on the mega-dairy issue because of the overwhelming case that these large operations are harmful to our health.

We were against mega-dairy expansion in parts of 2021 and last year, and this year join the diverse alignment of groups and Oregon residents against CAFO expansion generally.

So I want to reinforce that we and our partners in advocacy for SB 85-1 think that, in the -1 form, this moratorium is needed. It's not an overreach, it's not too hastily considered to be a this-session thing; we want to take this shot to reduce illness and preserve quality, clean air and water. The -3 that's posted narrows the bill to poultry, but it's just as important to include dairies, that's been our perspective.

Public health and environmental health data on this is key. A moratorium policy is supported by the American Public Health Association. The APHA has said that there has not been enough study to permit new or expanded CAFOs, knowing the impacts they've had on health.¹

¹ <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2020/01/13/precautionary-moratorium-on-new-and-expanding-concentrated-animal-feeding-operations>

We know things like:

- Drinking nitrate-contaminated water — a risk with nitrates from these operations' leeching into groundwater — has a relationship to increased colorectal cancer, thyroid disease, and infant disease.²
- Ammonia in the air at a CAFO or in proximity to one can cause significant olfactory and respiratory damage, and is compounded in the harm this presents with asthma and the presence of particulate matter.³

ONA supports keeping Oregon healthy in the vein of producing food to a high air, water, and environmental standard. That's what SB 85 with the -1 does; please support this version of this bill and thank you for allowing me to testify.

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6068531/>

³ https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Folder1/Folder50/CAFOs-Chemicals_Associated_with_Air_Emissions_5-10-06.pdf?rev=ac7b6d7bb56c4b85a378ce8fb9a30442