



To Chair Jeff Golden, Vice Chair Fred Girod, and members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

As COIN described in our initial testimony, we are a network of Oregon Indivisible groups known as the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN), <https://www.coinoregon.org/> COIN , and its member groups have thousands of members across Oregon. COIN and its Climate Energy Environment (CEE) Team supports SB 85-1, a moratorium on all large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), or factory farms.

Now that the Senate Natural Resources Committee is considering an amendment which excludes large dairy CAFOs from the moratorium (Amendment 3), COIN urges the Committee to reject SB 85-3 and to approve SB 85-1. Amendment 1 would stop new large CAFOs including mega-dairies from opening. A moratorium under SB 85-1 would not impact existing large dairies. SB 85-1 would allow time for state officials to assess and determine regulations to protect Oregonians and our communities, our air, water, soil, and the animals, from the negative impacts of large factory farms. SB-85-1 is simply good governance in the face of an industry that has been operating in Oregon virtually unregulated in the following areas:

- (1) Air emissions: CAFOs in Oregon are pumping dangerous pollutants including 17 million kilograms of methane into our air every year. We are working on other fronts in the State to slow global warming and climate change, yet, we have continued to allow methane to pour into our air unabated from mega-dairies! This is the equivalent of adding 318,000 gas-powered cars every year. The pollution from existing mega-dairies is impacting the health and safety of workers and Oregonians who live in nearby communities. Why would we allow more without taking steps to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities?
- (2) Water Usage: CAFOs use 8 million gallons of water each day just for washing cows and drinking water. We are in the midst of a severe drought that is devastating farmers and our communities. Oregon is also experiencing drying conditions and unprecedented wildfires. Why would we allow more mega-dairies to come into the State without taking steps to protect our water supplies?
- (3) Water Contamination: CAFOs demonstrably caused groundwater and drinking water pollution in communities where these factory farms are located. The ODA and DEQ made clear in their testimony at the informational hearing they do not monitor for groundwater contamination from the large amounts of cow manure that is dumped as “organic fertilizer” onto our farmland. Furthermore, ODA and DEQ have no effective way to monitor for runoffs and leaks from waste lagoons into our groundwater.

- (4) Impacts to smaller farms: CAFOs corporations mis-use Oregon's right to farm law, once enacted to protect Oregon's family farmers, as a weapon to drive out small family farmers, and prevent local regulation and redress by residents and communities of most of the harms suffered from air and water pollution from CAFOs.

In summary, we need a moratorium long enough to give officials plenty of time to assess all negative CAFO impacts to the public, the environment, the employees, the animals, and the local economies, and to improve all regulations so our State effectively eliminates the many negative impacts of industrialized animal farming. We need to address the problem of all types of CAFOs. Communities, constituents, laborers, family farmers, animals, air, water, and soil of Oregon deserve better. All of the above should not be treated so irresponsibly for the sake of profits for the few. COIN leadership, COIN members, and the CEE Team urge you to vote yes on Amendment 1 to protect Oregonians and a liveable future.

Thank you.

Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) and its Climate Energy Environment (CEE) Team