Submitter: Lorna Torrey Palermo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

To:. Natural Resources Committee
From:. Lorna Torrey Palermo,  97386
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Moratorium on Factory Farms in Oregon in support of amendment one.

"A now-retired agriculture professor, John Ikerd, "likened the CAFO debate to the tobacco controversy":

"There may not be definitive proof right now that CAFOs cause health problems, but every indication points that way" (Christensen, 2007).

How many lives might have been saved if a moratorium on tobacco use had been instituted pending a viable study of health outcomes?

"On the other hand, CAFO operators attempt to maximize profits, and usually oppose reform measures as a consequence. Nevertheless, industrial animal operations ought to discontinue their negative effects on environmental and human health." (Lievertz& Hammersmith, 2008)

My concern centers not only on the documented negative impact that CAFOs have on the environment, (including air quality, antibacterial resistance and ground water contamination) but also the impact on the individuals in the surrounding communities impacting both health and economic functioning.

The following impacts on communities surrounding CAFOs have been documented:

"Industrial animal operations have also been linked to:
1.  Increased asthma and other illnesses in surrounding communities, (documented in schools)
2.Unfair economic structures for farmers,
3. Persistent rural poverty in entire communities,
4.Inability to sell homes or severe loss of home value within three miles of any CAFO,
5.Increased depression and other neurobehavioral symptoms,
6.Impaired function and animal welfare abuses  (PEW Commission, 2008, Kilpatrick, 2001, CAFOs Near Schools, 2006)."

I feel deep concern for the unseen impacts of CAFOs on rural communities and their children in Oregon. In Oregon we are working to improve the lives of rural Oregonians.

I would like to request that you require extensive and definitive research on CAFOs before they are allowed to impact Oregonians.

CARE, has published studies indicating that the money saved in raising animals in CAFOs will be spent treating health concerns and cleaning up the environmental harm that these establishments cause.

Thank you for considering this information.

Cited References:

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations: Environmental Pollution and Animal Cruelty. What's Next?
Say no to CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations)! Why? On January 14, 2015, the Community Association for the Restoration of the Environment (CARE)

Industrial Animal Production Operations: Environmental and Human Health Concerns
May 5, 2008
Matthew Lievertz Robert Hammersmith

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