

Submitter: m scott

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Dear Chair Golden, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm moratorium in Oregon. We must take action to halt the expansion of factory farming in our state until we have protections in place for the environment, animal welfare, family farms, and frontline communities. SB 85-1 is necessary to properly regulate factory farms and protect our rural communities. The -3 amendment does not go far enough and cannot be allowed to stand as our only way forward. I urge the committee to support the strongest version of this bill and vote SB 85-1 out of your committee.

For the reasons stated below:

- All Oregonians have a right to clean air, water, and food.
- This scale of industrial production takes more than its fair share of water resources. We're already overburdened with drought and fires in Oregon. Industrial chicken farms would worsen this issue of too little water.
- We envision Oregon as a place where small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities and come together with Portland so we nurture each other in a direct and positive manner. The small farms bridge understanding between us and our political climate calls for more of this bridging not less of it.
- Oregonians know that a healthy food system is integral to the wellbeing of our communities, our agriculture, and our state.
- Oregonians want community-based agriculture that delivers safe food to all Oregonians. I feel better buying meat that really doesn't have recalls or salmonella or E.coli problems that cannot be contained. I've heard they could save us money on chicken but on our health, no. The Double up food bucks and many our small farmers in Oregon work with people on affordability and there is trust and relationships made at the point of sale.
- Factory farms monopolize meat processing infrastructure and make it harder for independent farmers to find processing. They also attract more contract only processing facilities to the state not open to other farmers. This would ruin the livelihoods of the small farmers in just this one act.
- Land Use: These facilities come in with a lot of money and take up EFU zoned land and designated High Value Soils. They outbid local, small and midsize farmers and then don't use the land for its intended purpose. You don't need High Value Soils to build a warehouse full of 125,000 chickens, and the compaction/damage to the soil will take decades to undo."

We need our politicians to do more than lip service on climate change and committing Oregon to only having small and midsize farms is part of that action..

I urge you to vote for SB 85 with the -1 amendment in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and midsized socially and ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.

Best,
Mel S.