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On Behalf Of: SB85-1
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Since 2007, CAFOS in Iowa have increased more than five-fold. Please look at map at link to see this shocking proliferation of these incredibly polluting, water intensive and major methane emission factories, supplanting farms across Iowa state.

In 2020, animals in Iowan CAFOS created more than 68 million pounds of feces, by magnitudes more waste than the 3.1 million Iowan citizens. Now Iowans are scrambling to address huge water, air and soil pollution issues and their related health problems. Plus, countryside with CAFOS reeks of manure, and rural communities have collapsed. <https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/2020-iowa-cafos/>

Biodigesters are touted as the new solution by industry for fecal soil, air and water poisoning, but this is very expensive, energy intensive technology which necessitates tons of heavy equipment on the landscape every single day, trucks carrying the manure to digesters, and is potentially very explosive. Leaks and emissions can also occur and the stench issue is still a big concern.

I run a small organic farm in the Willamette Valley, on some of the most fertile and beautiful farmland in the world, with a perfect climate ideally suited for growing delicious and healthy fruits, grains and vegetables. People from around the world come to Oregon to visit our farmers markets and to eat our delicious produce, and we rural farmers provide locally grown healthy, sustainable and delicious food to millions of Oregonians.

I don't understand how industry can claim Industrial, major polluting and water intensive operations belong on this rare precious farmland. Will farmers markets, drives in the country, swims in the river, our birds, bumblebees and wildflowers also disappear as we allow a greedy few to ruin our best resources, then ship their products, from sick, mistreated and miserable animals, all over the world?

We won't be able to bring back the healthy soil organisms, the bees, butterflies and birds when we have destroyed much of their last and best refuges- small and mid-sized family farms, and turned our farmlands into a factory farm wasteland.

I lived with my children in Portland near a heavily polluting factory. For decades I grew much of my family's food in our yard not far from the factory which I assumed was safely filtered and monitored. I did soil tests from time to time and believed the crops I fed my kids were safe. My eldest especially loved my organic chard and kale,

ate healthily, exercised, and played outdoors and yet over time became very sick. (Today as an adult, he suffers from a number of serious chronic health concerns).

Then, about ten years ago we were stunned to learn that DEQ had made a special deal with the factory, allowing them to burn huge barrels of heavy metals with very little monitoring or filtration. I learned tests revealed deadly arsenic and cadmium in my neighborhood.

Shocked, I tested my chard and kale leaves at a certified lab and was horrified to learn they were at very unsafe levels for cadmium and also contained lead. The plants had breathed in and deposited these heavy metals from the factory in their stomata.

A successful lawsuit proved the guilt of the factory, but my son is still quite sick. We know for a fact that DEQ has just 30 ongoing monitoring sites for the whole state. They rotate monitoring equipment as it is very expensive. Further they have just a small staff to process this monitoring and make sure industry is compliant. In no way is Oregon prepared for a slew of more CAFOS which can poison crops and people just as what happened to me and my child.

The DEQ is funded by polluters licensing of their operations. We can in no way at this point be confident the small DEQ budget and staff will adequately protect our citizens, ecosystem and precious water and air supplies. Don't bend to the lies that just because "industry is compliant" with rules, that spills and toxic pollution can not still leach out and permanently ruin lives and land.