

Submitter: Casey Kulla
On Behalf Of: Oakhill Organics
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB85

Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I served on the Senate's 2022 Interim Large Poultry CAFO workgroup and learned alongside legislators about the extent of Oregon's regulatory system, including the gaps. Local governments that have no say in siting the very largest facilities and leaders at Oregon Water Resources Department that have no say in the amount of water used are two very large gaps.

Unlimited stock watering is a practice that needs to change; stock waterers at CAFOs should be required to obtain a water rights permit rather than having an exemption. The water rights permitting process is an important check on water use and is absolutely necessary in a hotter, drier world. We simply have to get better in how we use water.

Local governments have the opportunity to impose time-place-manner ordinances on other farm crops that we deem a risk to others. Minimum distance to schools, neighbors, and our shared waterbodies can be set by the local community in a transparent manner.

Oregon has so many amazing farmers and CAFO-based producers who care for their animals. SB 85 with the dash-four amendment levels the playing field for farmers and protects the aquifer for all users, including farmers.