



Testimony regarding SB 85-4: CAFO Regulation To the Senate Committee on Natural Resources

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp and members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil, and I am an energy system modeler and climate policy expert, but prior to that I was involved in the development of waste handling, energy generation systems for factory farms. I currently live in Gresham, and organize with the Metro Climate Action Team, which is a community of volunteers working to ensure Oregon is a leader in addressing the climate crisis.

I am testifying today to urge you to support SB 85 with the -4 amendment, which would strengthen the regulations on the largest new and expanding factory farms in Oregon to ensure public safety and protection of our environment.

I have seen first-hand the air, soil and water environmental damages these factory farms make, and NOW is the time to act to protect Oregon from an unwise expansion of factory farms, which are increasingly targeting our state at a time when we are trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to stop the worst impacts from climate change. Expanding new factory farms without proper regulations to protect the environment and the climate runs counter to Oregon's climate goals. We need stronger regulations on new and expanding factory farms to protect Oregon's vulnerable water resources from polluted manure runoff and the unsustainable extraction of large quantities of already scarce water from Oregon's rivers, streams and groundwater aquifers. These new regulations would also help alleviate the disproportionate environmental health impacts of industrial animal agriculture on communities of color, Tribes, and low-income communities in rural Eastern Oregon.

These large factory farms don't help rural Oregonians. Forty years ago, Oregon was home to more than 4,000 dairies, mostly small, family-owned businesses. As factory dairy farms have come to dominate state milk production, just over 200 remain. Factory farms now threaten to do the same thing in the chicken business.

We urge the committee to support SB 85-4 with stronger regulations on all new and expanded factory farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pat DeLaquil

On behalf of the Metro Climate Action Team Steering Committee