

Submitter: Janice Rose
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB85

Date: May 4, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Rules

From: Janice Rose

Re: Support for SB85

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Janice Rose, and I live in Colton.

I am an organic gardener, as my father and grandmother before me. I think that this Earth is our home and we must ALL look after it. This means that I will do what it takes so that my children and grandchildren are able to have a good life, without worrying about polluted air, clean water, and decent soil.

I am writing to you today in support of a factory farm reform in Oregon. Although I would prefer that SB 85-1 was passed to give ample time for responsible policy direction, I want to voice my support for SB 85-4 as a start to addressing some of the most immediate impacts of the influx of factory farms we are seeing in our state. 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. But we must also keep working on the current proposal to make sure it does not put a new burden on small farmers for the sake of allowing large CAFOs to produce more waste than they can handle.

Factory farms are not good for Oregon. What is needed are family farms that don't have a huge impact on the environment. The whole state has the right to clean air, water, and food. Factory farms always take more than their fair share of water resources. When factory farms take more than their fair share, the water level goes down for the rest of us. We are not able to have enough water to drink or provide the basic necessities while factory farms waste water.

Climate change is already impacting my timber on my property and my family has had to evacuate twice because of the threat of wild fires. Factory farms are making the problem worse. We envision Oregon as a place where small family farms

enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities.

The fact that especial rural 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.

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. These facilities disincentivize plants from working with small farmers like me, limiting my options even more.

These gigantic facilities are often owned by out of state folks who don't invest in my community. The environmental impacts limit who wants to live and do business in my town.

Set backs from homes, schools, community gathering places and fish bearing streams are essential to keeping our rural communities healthy and vital.

I urge you to continue to work with Friends of Family Farmers and their coalition members to craft strong regulation for the largest CAFOs in the 2023 Legislative Session to protect our small and mid-sized socially and ecologically responsible family farms in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Janice Rose

Citizen of the Earth