

## Written Testimony in favor of SB 85-4

TO: Chair Lieber and Vice-Chair Knopp and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules  
FROM: Ron Bunch in Support Friends of Family Farmers and Farmers Against Foster Farms  
RE: Support of SB 85-4  
Date: May 4, 2023

### Introduction

I watched the May 4, 2023, public Hearing on SB 85-4 and wish to express my support for the bill. The proposed legislation could be better from the perspective of protecting the local communities and natural resources from the impacts of large CAFOs. However, it is a compromise and a good place to begin a constructive dialog of balancing quality of life issues and essential environmental protection with the realities of large-scale animal product production. Fundamentally, it establishes a working framework for fact-based dialog.

### Discussion

SB 85-4 Represents Good Governance: From my perspective of 40 years of local government experience, SB 85-4 represents an effort at good governance – to address conflict between divergent interests which is being made worse by accelerating extreme and unpredictable weather, economics, cultural differences, and population growth. From a more expansive view, the state may wish to begin another dialog on these factors, especially relating to agriculture.

Next Steps: The Oregon legislature is not constrained in acting to regulate time place and manner of land use activities including those on agricultural lands. Therefore, as the CAFO issue proceeds it is important to hold to the following principles and allow local governments to meet the needs of all their constituencies.

- The rights of members of the public to participate in decisions that affect them and the prevention of harm to individuals and the social fabric.
- Protection of the environment including air, water and land resources and dependent natural systems.
- The livability/quality of life of communities including economic security.
- The current and long-term viability of all forms of agriculture
- The need for safe and predictable provision of public facilities and services, and
- Promotion and maintenance of respectful dialog and understanding.

Thank you!

File: May 4 2023 testimony SB 85