

Submitter: Margaret Spahn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB85

5/5/2023

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

I am writing in support of SB 85 -4. I am a property owner and small hazelnut grower in Scio. I have submitted testimony in support of previous versions of SB-85.

You have heard the myriad legitimate public concerns regarding large factory farms in previous SB-85 hearings. The scope of concerns includes water quality and quantity, air quality, natural resource protection, human health and welfare, community health, land use compatibility, economic, corporate accountability, animal welfare and others. Public testimony on previous SB85 versions as well as this amendment, indicate overwhelming public support for protecting Oregon from the many negative impacts of factory-controlled, industrial animal farming. The support comes from across the usual societal and geographic boundaries. Supporters of SB85 are not anti-farm. Many are farmers themselves or farm workers.

Although I believe that SB85-4 does not adequately address the public's concerns, the proposed improvements to existing regulations are a step in the right direction, and therefore I urge your support for SB-85-4.

I strongly urge you to correct the weak public notice requirements for land-use compatibility statements in the current amendment (Pg. 14, Line 5), by changing the word "may" to "shall". ((5) The governing body of the city or county shall require, as a condition, ...")

SB85-4 is an appropriate reaction to obvious regulatory inadequacies and to some regulatory failures that had disastrous consequences. But it is largely reactionary, with the section on Animal Welfare a notable exception. Times and conditions change, and lawmakers need to proactive to protect Oregon resources and communities. The experiences of other States that have seen an influx of factory farms should serve as a model in developing adequate protections. There is an abundance of evidence and data from other States regarding the impacts of industrial scale factory farms. In order to protect Oregon, those experiences should be studied, and a moratorium enacted to allow time for the study and any legislative recommendations. We need lawmakers to look forward and to strengthen laws and requirements in to prevent the next disastrous failure!

I continue to support a more concerted legislative effort to truly address public

concerns and provide protections of Oregon's land, and people, and the small and medium-sized independent farms, from industrial-scaled, factory-controlled animal grow-out facilities.

I am grateful for your efforts, and the efforts of Senators Dembrow and Golden, and I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Margaret Spahn