

Submitter: Christina Menchini
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB85

Oregonians want businesses that make Oregon better. We envision Oregon as a place where small family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities. My husband and I raise pigs on pasture in Mulino and sell at our local farmer's markets. Our customers share that understanding and are willing to pay a premium for our meat.

Industrial confined animal feeding operations create inexpensive meat at a cost to worker conditions, animal welfare, the local economy and the environment. A concrete warehouse with upwards of 8,000 pigs is an environmental liability and will operate at a scale that is beyond the capacity many local businesses in the ag sector. CAFOs are not buying from the hundred year old, family run feed mill, they are not improving soil fertility or supporting wildlife habitats. Most are vertically integrated, which creates an inexpensive product, but also keeps their money out of the local economy- local economies that need money like Scio and Molalla.

Our farm employs local residents, purchases several tons of feed weekly from our community feed mill, slaughters locally and sells at our farmer's markets. In 2016, our slaughterhouse employed 4 people. As we have grown, they too have grown and currently employ 40 people. We pay local taxes and plan for when elementary schools have days off. We don't need setbacks or water limits because our mission is to farm in our community and for our community. This is not just a place to operate, it is a place we are invested in. We are not poisoning our groundwater because we rely on that water. We are Oregonians. We are stewards of our land and aim to create a better Oregon for our children.

Large CAFOs don't care about our communities. They want labor, land and a place to put their poop.

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.