

Date: 6 May 2023
To: Senate Committee on Rules
From: Cheryl Williams- Cosner, Upper Dry Creek Ranch
Re: Do Not Support for SB85

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

My name is Cheryl Williams-Cosner. I own and operate a livestock ranch on 2,200 acres in Weston, Oregon.

I am writing to you today to ask that you oppose SB 85 in any form.

The proponents of this legislation have used ill-defined terms to promote an agenda that is based less on fact and more on emotion.

- 1) The term “factory farm” cannot be not accurately defined. It cannot be defined by size, ownership, location or resource base.
- 2) So called “factory farms” contribute less methane to the environment than the thousands of cars driven in Oregon every day. According to EPA, national transportation contributes 28.5% of methane emissions to the environment. Animal agriculture emits a mere 3.9%.
- 3) Food production is paramount to idealism. Small farms are part of the fabric of Oregon. So are mid-sized and large farms. The United States Department of Agriculture defines a small farm as any farm with gross sales of less than \$100,000. Mid-sized farms are defined as \$100,001 to \$250,000 in gross sales. Large farms are defined as \$250,000 and up. Many farms on the east side of this state would be considered large farms by this definition. But nearly all are family farms owned and operated by the family members.
- 4) For 12 years, I have used processing facilities to fabricate 300 lambs per year. I have worked with five USDA processing plants. None of these facilities are limited by “factory farm” demand for their services. What’s more, it is vital that these facilities have a steady supply of animals to insure their livelihood. Micro-farms that process small numbers of animals each year cannot insure this.

I urge you oppose SB 85. Please protect all farms and farmers in Oregon so we can insure a secure food chain, provide a living wage for farmers and create economic stability for our state’s citizens.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Williams-Cosner
Upper Dry Creek Ranch
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