

Submitter: Robert Richard
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB85

Date: May 6,2023

To: Senate Committee on Rules

From: Robert Richard

Re: Support for SB85

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

My name is Robert Richard and I live in Portland, OR.

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 factory farm facilities potentially coming into 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.

All Oregonians have a right to clean air, water, and food. This scale of industrial production takes more than its fair share of water resources. As we find weather extremes impacting our environment, depletion of ground water tables and reduced watershed health are keystone factors impacting our food supply.

Climate change is already impacting our environment and these facilities 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.

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. Emphasize the demand that you have for your products.

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 who supply local farmers markets, limiting food options available to consumers in this state even more.

These facilities are moving into areas that are not suited to this type of industrial agriculture. 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,

Robert Richard

Board Member
Hollywood Farmers Market
Home to dozens of local family farms