

Submitter: Ed Fine  
On Behalf Of: Lane Families for Farms and Forests  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB85

My name is Ed Fine, President of Lane Families for Farms and Forests, and on behalf of our organization, I would like to express our opposition to SB 85-4. Lane Families for Farms and Forests is a non-profit organization committed to harnessing support for Lane County's rich heritage of agriculture and forestry, two cornerstones of our local community. Together, we work toward preserving the thriving agriculture and forestry industries in Lane County for generations to come.

Lane Families for Farms and Forests worries about SB 85-4 and how it will impact animal operations, other types of family farms, the food supply, and the local food system. Oregon farms are interconnected and must purchase seeds, fertilizer, equipment, tractors, feed, and other supplies. The collapse of any major sector will have rippling consequences for producers and consumers as we rely on each other to stay viable. That said, impacts of SB 85-4 will undoubtedly lead to the detriment of many Oregon CAFO operations. Resulting in adverse effects and reduced accessibility to the various resources that other farms need to operate—increasing our dependence on out-of-state food rather than sustainably producing our own. We do not want to see any more family farming operations close their doors.

Our producers genuinely value environmental stewardship, responsible management, and a robust regulatory system. Livestock farms in Oregon have exceptional compliance rates and are well known nationwide for the care provided to animals and "cow comfort" to dairy cows.

Despite our passion for this work, producers face pressures including continually increasing operating costs, poor market prices, labor, regulatory burden, and weather disasters. From our analysis, SB 85 -4 does not consider the economic hurdles producers face nor recognizes our need for modernization to become or stay profitable and keep up with the demands and requirements placed on our industry. To keep up, we need the ability to grow.

Rather than passing and implementing SB 85 and putting farms at risk, we believe program improvement can be achieved by adding additional steps to the permitting process, including preliminary consultation and new occupancy review.

We hope you will consider our expert voice and oppose SB 85-4 due to its devastating effects on livestock and non-livestock operation in Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ed Fine  
President of Lane Families for Farms and Forest