



Office of Senator Michael Dembrow

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 20, 2023

**Press Contact:**

Tess Seger, [Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov)

## **Public Health Protections for Rural Communities Impacted by CAFOs Pass Oregon Senate**

*SB 85 will ensure CAFOs are properly managed, located, and monitored*

**SALEM, Ore** - Today, the Oregon Senate passed [Senate Bill 85](#) to protect public health, animal welfare, and access to water in communities with large confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

When they are properly managed, located, and monitored, CAFOs are a source of low-cost meat, milk, and eggs. However, CAFOs can produce a number of contaminants that pose a serious threat to the health, safety, and economic well-being of many rural communities. If improperly managed, CAFOs have been shown to pollute the air, water, and land around them and force thousands of animals to suffer in inhumane conditions.

SB 85 strikes a balance to make CAFOs safe for communities and animals while ensuring they can continue to operate and keep grocery costs low for Oregon families. This legislation will:

- Increase standards for large CAFO permitting regarding water pollution. Require them to come up with a water supply plan to ensure that they have adequate, legal sources of water.
- Prohibit the introduction of animals into a new or expanding CAFO until it has been inspected for public health and animal welfare safety.
- Create a nutrient application permit program to make sure any waste from CAFOs that is used as fertilizer is appropriate and safe.
- Creates a new cap on the stock water exemption (12,000 gallons/day) to protect critical groundwater supply in drought-prone areas.
- Give local governments a say in where CAFOs are located within their jurisdictions to protect public health and the local economy.

“When CAFOs are not properly managed, located, and monitored, it can devastate a community. This bill came in response to what we heard from a number of residents and small

farmers in rural Linn and Marion counties last summer who were terrified about the impact that proposed huge corporate operations would have on their water and the health of their families. We listened seriously to their concerns and worked hard to come up with a clear process to keep them safe,” said **Senator Michael Dembrow (D - Portland)**. “SB 85 will work to make sure every family and business in rural Oregon can thrive.”

SB 85 is one of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, SB 85 now moves to the House for consideration.

###