

I urge you legislators to not only support SB 583 but add an amendment to expand the moratorium to all industrial animal operations. I live in rural Linn County and Foster Farms has targeted our community for its operations. They want to enclose thousands of chickens in a very small area. This concerns me for several reasons.

1. The negative environmental impacts of locating so many birds right next to the Santiam River. The manure and ammonia (and dead birds, these operations have a lot of mortality) has to go somewhere. Efforts to contain it may not prevent a situation where leeching occurs and our waterways become polluted, hurting not just the fish and wildlife, but all the farmers and consumers who are downstream and rely on the river for clean water.

2. The negative social impacts of a few short-term, low wage jobs and a predatory contract model headed by an out of state corporation producing for an overseas market. This is a race to the bottom where corners will be cut. Rural Oregon needs steady, high-paying jobs in agriculture and other industries, not factory farm jobs. Don't let these corporations hide what nobody else wants to see in our communities and profit from it.

3. The negative impacts on animal welfare. I live in the country and keep chickens. I raise them for meat and eggs. It breaks my heart to see the conditions these poor animals are subjected to in these high volume operations. I'm not against eating meat or anything, I just think it's cruel to give them so little space during their short lives. Not to mention how such practices create the perfect environment for introducing illnesses like E. coli and others into the food system.

I'm writing to you because as a citizen, I feel I have little recourse to protect our community, our property values, or our health from the negative impacts this operation will bring. I certainly can't write Foster Farms a letter and expect them to stop. So I'm writing you. Rural Oregon needs you to pass this legislation to would block such operations. Thank you.