

Submitter: karen mahoney

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

My school years were spent in Waseca, Minnesota, home of the U of M Southern School of Agriculture, a boarding school for farm students in far flung locations. Also home of U of M Research Center and much more Ag related entities. This school prepared rural students with the latest farming technology as well as giving them a well rounded education. Graduation rates soared for these farm students. It opened in 1953 and closed 1973 much to the distress of the agricultural communities throughout Minnesota. It is now a federal prison. How sad and what a loss. However, Minnesota has gone a long way in protecting family farms.

Minn. stature Section 500.24 (1971) requires that all pension or investment funds, corporations, limited partnerships, minited liability companies , and trusts must be certified by the Mn Dept. of Ag. before engaging in farming or having an interest in agricultural land. This law was passed to encourage & protect the family farm as a basic economic unit, to insure it as the most socially desirable mode of agricultural production, and the enhanve and promote the stability and well-being of rural society in Minnesota and the nuclear family. Look at the list of farm ownership in this productive country and you will find it is overwhelmingly family owned. Laws protect against infringement by corporations et al.

I lived in Oregon during college years 1969 - 1974 and was exposed to the good governance of Gov. McAll and his land use planning before moving to Utah. I moved back to Florence 2011. I see the "for profit" distruction throughout the country and the battle to protect our treasured land from pollution, water shortage and misuse due to lack of regulatory controls.

At one time there were about 15 dairy farms up the North Fork of the Siuslaw. Competing against Big Dairy was difficult and local communities lost their local products. A ray of sunshine. A new dairy is opening on the North Fork with plans for a cheese factory!!! No long distance hauling! Local jobs. Healthy food. Make the dairy business good again!!