

Submitter: david smith
On Behalf Of: farmers against foster farms
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

I support the bill to require the Dept. of Agriculture to study confined animal feeding operations (CAFO). I believe SB 85-1 is needed in order for the Dept. of agriculture to practice due diligence and review the research and data that exists in peer reviewed literature that indicates the harmful effects (possibly life threatening effects) from these CAFO. My farm which produces farm fresh free range chicken and duck eggs along with grass hay is within several hundred yards from the proposed operation in Scio Oregon. I am a double board certified MD who has been in active "front line" medical practice in Oregon for over 45 yrs. From a purely medical standpoint, I believe the following scientific articles indicate the extent of the problems that these industrial operations cause.

Please see these scientific publications:

(1) Poulsen M et al: Residential proximity to high density poultry operation associated with Campylobacteriosis and infectious diarrhea. Int J Hyg. Environ Health. 2018 221(2):323-333.

(2) Poulsen M et al: High density poultry operations and community-acquired pneumonia in Pennsylvania. Environmental Epidemiology. 2018.2:e013, 1-7

Those of us who farm and ranch know that these massive operations will negatively impact our air, water and both the viability and livability of our local communities. It is also clear that our current laws and regulations have not kept up to date with the impacts that these operations could have. Specifically, I am troubled that Oregon does not currently regulate air emissions from large CAFOs and one of the proposals is for 4.6 million birds less than a mile from my property and even closer to the pristine Santiam river' The state also does not limit that amount of groundwater that these operations can use, even when a facility is being proposed in a groundwater management area that is known to have a limited quantity of ground water. Lastly, we have been told by our county commissioners that the state has taken away their authority to put any reasonable safeguards on where mega poultry operations can be sited, which is ludicrous particularly when the county has a much better understanding of the local area and how these operations could negatively impact local farms, rural businesses and the people living here.

For all of the above reasons, it is only prudent that we put a pause on the permitting of any new and expanding CAFOs (e.g. the proposed operations in Scio and elsewhere in the surrounding local EFU Oregon areas) until we can adequately study and address the impacts that these operations will have on our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Smith, MD