

Submitter: Chris Roehm
On Behalf Of: All sentient creatures who live around Scio
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

Dear Senator Golden,

My name is Chris Roehm and, along with my wife, I own and operate Square Peg Farm in Forest Grove, OR. We have been farming since 2003, focusing mainly on farm-direct marketing of certified organic produce but we have also raised and sold poultry and hogs over the years.

I am writing in support of SB 85 because the State of Oregon needs to re-evaluate how it permits CAFOs in the state. The proposed poultry CAFOs near Scio are the latest example of under-regulated industrial agriculture facilities that degrade the quality of life and the environment through noise, air, and water pollution in addition to using huge amounts of groundwater.

One need only look to the horrible groundwater pollution plaguing the residents of Morrow and Umatilla counties for the past 30 years to see that the regulatory rules and processes for siting and managing CAFOs in Oregon is badly broken. SB 85 will be a good first step towards correcting the errors of the past and charting a future for our state that recognizes the on-the-ground effects of barely-regulated industrial agriculture and moves to real solutions centered on people and the environment.

Thanks for your consideration and for passing SB 85.

Chris Roehm
Square Peg Farm, Inc.
Forest Grove, OR