

Chair Golden and Members of the Committee:

My name is Peggy Curtis and I own 163 acres approximately 1.5 miles from one of the proposed CAFO sites and have been a farmer/rancher in the Scio area for 40 years. I produce grass hay every year, have raised sheep, bred goats, horses, miniature donkeys, and boarded horses all beginning in 1983. Farming is my life!

I am testifying in support of SB 85-1

I am very fortunate to live on, and be a steward of a very unique piece of property. Along with a large area of wetland, I have a creek, Bear Branch which runs thru a good portion of my property and goes into the Santiam River just 500 yards away. In the 1980's and 1990's, I would walk along Bear Branch and see 30 foot shadows of spawning Salmon in the gravel bars, it was a sight! The Fish and Wildlife students from OSU would come out on a yearly basis to count the smolt in Bear Branch as it was a very important barometer as to the welfare of the entire watershed. Unfortunately about 20 years ago, the students quit coming as there were no smolt to count. There are two agencies that I am aware of, CREP and the North Santiam Watershed Council, who have spent over a million dollars on Bear Branch Restoration spanning approximately 15-20 years, diligently trying to establish greenways along this spawning creek to cool the water and protect it from fertilizer runoff. They have also paid for the fencing off of animals to keep out manure and urine, and prevent bank erosion. Two of the proposed CAFO sites are very close to the Santiam River and Thomas Creek. I am very concerned that allowing large CAFO chicken operations any where near the Santiam or its tributaries would be a giant step backward to the efforts of these programs. The huge ventilation fans that push the ammonia out of the buildings are releasing particulates and ammonia into the air which is troubling as it is not currently regulated and would be 400 yards from the Santiam River! Also preventing ground water contamination seems impossible since the percolation of the water is at the surface in the long Oregon rainy season.

At the informational hearing, one of the speakers mentioned that they were learning all the time and adjusting their rules. Personally I feel that it would be irresponsible to use the Santiam River or Thomas Creek as a guinea pig for

establishing regulations for CAFOs near watersheds. These waterways are too important as Thomas Creek runs into the Santiam and the Santiam is one of our cleanest local rivers and supplies water to several municipalities, provides much needed recreation, is a sanctuary for wildlife including many species of birds, and deserves to be protected. A Bird Flu outbreak would be disastrous! And that is not out of the realm of possibility.

Thank you for your consideration regarding my concerns.

Peggy Curtis