

Dear Chair Golden and members of the committee,

I am submitting written testimony in support of SB 85-1. As a farmer and wife of a fisheries biologist, I am deeply troubled by the proposed massive poultry operations looking to be sited near a school and near critical habitat for listed fish in Thomas Creek and the North Santiam River.

Specifically, I am troubled that Oregon does not currently regulate air emissions from large CAFOs and one of the proposals (JS Ranch) is for 3.5 million birds less than 500 yards from some of the best salmon and steelhead habitat left in the North Santiam River. The habitat is so important ODFW purchased Weisman Island specifically for habitat. Ammonia released from the factory will be deposited in the river and converted to Nitrogen. This river is protected under the Three Basin Rule. ODA has taken the position that this CAFO is a closed system. Scientific research proves that this is inaccurate. These buildings have exhaust fans that will exhaust NH₃ particulates out of the buildings. I have attached a link to a study that proves that airborne particulates do contaminate waterways (Baker, et al).

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969722071145>

This study was cited in a court case where the court ruled that airborne deposition of NH₃ did pollute waterways and must be regulated under the Clean Water Act. The city of Jefferson (downstream) gets their drinking water from this river. Toxic algal blooms cannot be filtered out (as evidenced by the boil water order for the city of Salem in the recent past). Further, slightly downstream from this proposed site is one of the most popular river floating areas in the county. How many people will be sickened if there is a toxic algae bloom?

The air deposition of NH₃ into the North Santiam further jeopardizes the two listed fish (Winter Steelhead and Spring Chinook) as well as the recently delisted Oregon Chub and the Species of Concern, the Pacific Lamprey. The North Santiam is already listed as water quality limited, this will only make it worse. Testimony was given on 10/20/2021 to ODA by Bruce Zoellick, a federal fisheries biologist, discussing the threat

of algal blooms in this area. He noted on March 13, 2021, while videotaping a tour of the Weisman Island reach of the North Santiam, that there was already algae growing in the river, even during the cooler months. Here is the link to the video where he discusses the importance of this section of river and why it is so critical to listed fish. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_fsnL5LJZ4&t=5s

Another proposed site is only 0.5 of a mile from a school. It is well documented that chicken factories cause health problems for children living nearby. That site is also near Thomas Creek which also supports two listed fish species.

Lastly, we have been told by the 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. We lived and farmed in this area for over a decade and recently moved due to a job change. We miss the beauty of the area but mostly, we miss the people. Scio is such a special place that I felt it was important to submit testimony even though I do not live there any longer.

For all the above reasons, it is only prudent that you put a pause on the permitting of new and expanding CAFOs until the impacts that these operations will have on Oregon can be adequately studied. Please protect Oregon's water, farmland, fish and most of all, the people of rural communities that dedicate their lives to putting food on your table.

Please support SB 85-1.

Sincerely,

Lyn Zoellick