

Submitter: Jack Gray

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Jack Gray
Oak Pond LLC
Noti, OR

Chair Golden and members of the committee:

My name is Jack Gray and I've been farming mixed vegetables and beef cattle in Lane County for over 40 years. Our farm has been an economic driver in our community. It has provided us a good livelihood and been a great place to raise our kids.

I am here today to show my support for SB 85-1.

As a farmer, I am deeply troubled by the proposed massive poultry operations looking to be sited in a community like ours. Farming has always been about economic viability and lifestyle. Damage either one and the farm will eventually go away. Those of us who farm and live near these massive operations know they 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 a school. 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 that the state has taken away the county's 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 new and expanding CAFOs until we can adequately study and address the impacts that these operations will have on our state.

Please support SB 85-1.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jack Gray
Oak Pond LLC

