

Submitter: Mark Keller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Testimony in support of SB 85-1 Amendment 3/6/23

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources:

We are Mark and Pam Keller and we live in rural Linn County. Our 19 acres on Upper Berlin Drive includes a portion of Jack Creek, a tributary of Hamilton Creek. During our 30 years of ownership we have observed stream degradation all around us and have tried to improve the riparian zone by planting trees and removing invasives. We have seen the impact to surrounding lands of flooding and runoff. Pollution from soil erosion runoff during the winter and windblown dust in summer are serious issues. We are concerned about large-scale confined chicken farms that may locate in our area. The planned operations will raise millions of chickens a year, require billions of gallons of water, and result in massive amounts of hazardous waste. We cannot afford the risk these factory farms pose to our water supply and quality.

We also have personal experience with the waste generated from large-scale chicken farms. A neighbor once dumped a pile of "fertilizer" (chicken manure and carcasses) in a field almost a mile away. The smell was so bad we had to keep all our windows closed and stay inside for months. We could not sit outside and enjoy the summer days until we finally tracked down the owner of the field (he lived beyond the smell zone) and complained to DEQ. The thought of siting a factory chicken farm anywhere near a school playground is terrible.

Please move the -1 amendment of SB 85 forward and help secure its passage this session. As stated in the amendment, it is indeed "in the best interest of Oregonians to prohibit the proliferation of industrial confined animal feeding operations until the impacts have been adequately studied and addressed through laws and rules." Immediate halt to issuance of licenses and permits for new or expanded operations is crucial.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark and Pam Keller

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