

Submitter: Rebecca Steffoff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I am writing to express support for Oregon's SB 85, which will place a moratorium on confined animal feeding operations pending further study of CAFOs and their effects. I'm particularly concerned about three proposed poultry CAFOs planned for Linn county. I hope that the study called for by SB 85 will result in neither these nor other CAFOs being allowed to set up operation in our state.

My opposition to confined animal feeding operations is partly because many of them are horrifically inhumane, unworthy of a civilized society, but mostly because of their negative effects on our natural resources: soil, water (both groundwater and surface waters), wildlife, and wildlife habitat. The poultry industry claims that chicken waste is "dry litter" that won't enter the water system, but this is specious. In fact, much of it is sold as fertilizer and spread on fields, where it becomes "wet litter" through the action of rainfall or irrigation. This does not even account for the fact that the three poultry operations planned for Linn County are on land that floods in winter and is near the North Santiam River. Residents who rely on wells are at risk of groundwater pollution from CAFOs. Streams, creeks, seasonal ponds (very important for birds and other wildlife), and the river itself are at risk of runoff.

I urge the committee to proceed with cautious deliberation and to enact SB 85.

Thank you for your time and attention.