

Submitter: Janylee Thornton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

SB85

My husband, John Thornton, and I attended the meeting regarding SB85 last week, and I listened to the hearing on line yesterday morning. I am frustrated. I have always loved Oregon and have always trusted that our leaders are fair and wise. Now I am very worried. It seems so obvious that these issues need to be studied far more. How could our leaders not have known that when Foster Farms first broached the subject?

We live on a farm near the town of Scio, which is known as the "Covered Bridge Capitol of the West". I have many concerns about how a chicken factory would impact the quality of life and the income of our people, many of whom are from families who have been here since the 1800's. Our family has had our farm for forty-two years. The timber we planted is almost ready for logging. The orchard we planted produces great fruit and our vegetable gardens feed us and other folks well. The folks in the area who grow hazelnuts have great investments in the planting and maintenance of those orchards and need lots of water to maintain their investment. How can chicken factory owners think that the food they would produce is more important and that they can pollute our streams so that we cannot have enough clean water to produce the food we grow and have grown for many decades?

We rely on our water rights to water our orchards, vegetable gardens and fields. Our neighbors rely on those rights for fields, orchards, vineyards and livestock. How can it be fair for factories to come in and claim as much water as they like for thousands of chickens? We have delicious water in our wells. Streams polluted with ammonia and other pollutants would take that away. Some of us like to fish. Polluting our rivers would deprive us of that food.

Do we know how polluted the water and air would become? We enjoy our beautiful streams, hills and valleys. Many tourists enjoy them as well. They come to our valleys and towns to enjoy driving through our covered bridges over our streams, eat in our local restaurants and shop in our local stores. If our air and water is polluted, would they want to keep coming? Do we know what impact these chicken factories would have on our property values?

We ask you too please pause and study this matter carefully.

Thank you for reading my concerns and considering these matters.

Sincerely,
Janylee D. Thornton