

Submitter: Linda Craig

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, Members of the Committee,

I am Linda Craig. I live in Portland now, but I grew up on a farm in rural Iowa. My great-grandparents had homesteaded the land. My father farmed corn and soybeans and kept a few head of livestock. I want to tell you about our experience with large scale animal feed lots.

As they neared retirement age, my parents built their dream home on the farm. My siblings and I built them a screened patio that they used for evening dining and leisure.

Shortly after their new home was completed, a neighbor, one-half mile to the north, put in a hog confinement facility. When the wind came from the north, which was often, the odor was so bad from that facility that my parents could no longer enjoy being outside. That facility, built by a neighbor, essentially spoiled a big part of my parents' quality of life and significantly reduced the value of their property. Of course, there was no regulation to compensate them or set things right.

There are many other arguments for why these large-scale facilities are bad for people, animals, and the environment, but I write today to tell you about my family's experience. These facilities do not make good neighbors for anyone! I urge you to begin to consider the consequences for quality of life in rural Oregon if huge livestock operations begin to proliferate.

Thanks for the opportunity to tell my story.