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March 6, 2023

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

My name is Lyle Mordhorst and I am County Commissioner for Polk County, home to rolling hills and fertile valleys a true agricultural haven. I am submitting testimony today in opposition to SB 85, including the -1 amendment, which will negatively impact the local, hard-working and passionate farmers across my county.

The agriculture industry is already suffering under ag overtime bills, increased taxes and an increase in demand. Our local farmers and ranchers work tirelessly, 24 hours & 7 days a week, to provide healthy, locally sourced proteins to Oregonians across the state and even the world. The care and compassion that they have for their livestock and our environment is unbeatable, yet SB 85 and -1 amendment attempt to attack this already highly regulated program.

Additional unnecessary legislation will not only increase consumer costs, carbon emissions, and reliance on out-of-state food suppliers, they will destroy multi-generational farms and operations whose only goal is to keep up with the nutritional needs of a growing population.

I urge you to stand with your local farmers and Oregon's agriculture industry and oppose SB 85 and -1 amendment.

Thank you for your time,

Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst