

TO: Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources

SUBMITTED BY: Ernest and Karen Heuberger

ON BEHALF OF: Ernest and Karen Heuberger

MEASURE: SB 85

DATE: March 12, 2023

We support SB 85. Please put a “pause” on the rush for industrial factory farms. We need additional study and assurances that we don’t ruin our environment and ecology and quality of life with newly placed factory farms harming in ways that can not be undone nor reversed.

We own property/a farm in Linn County, Oregon on Thomas Creek. An adjoining property sold and is preparing to become an industrial chicken operation. The proposed site, at 43157 Thomas Creek Drive, Scio 97374, “Evergreen Operation” plans to have 16, 60 by 600 foot buildings, expected to process 4.5 million chickens per year through this operation. An estimated 9,000 semi trucks per year will deliver supplies and ship out product 24 hours per day. As much as 5,000 tons of manure per year will be a by-product. An enormous amount of water is required for this factory farm operation----and there is no municipal water supply. This operation has drilled wells, which have fouled the well water of a nearby property owner, and negatively impacting our water table.

This proposed industrial chicken operation is in very close proximity to a public elementary school, Lourdes Charter School. The negative influences of air pollution, water pollution, potential avian viruses, and dangerous traffic will directly negatively impact school children.

The livestock watering loophole that allows for the chicken operation to withdraw our groundwater without a limit must end. Our current laws in Oregon are inadequate to protect the air and water contamination from these industrial chicken factory farm operations. We need a pause on these industrial operations for additional study and protections.

Our farm property is north of this and downhill, with Thomas Creek passing through the north boundary – and would suffer pollution from the inevitable run off or accidents due to flooding that would occur.

We realize that “chickens” are permitted activity in exclusive farm use zones. However, when our land use laws and zoning were established in the 1970’s, it was not the intention to permit industrial operations where millions of chickens are raised in buildings by huge out of state corporations.

We honestly think that this industrial chicken factory adjoining our farm, if permitted, will be only the beginning of many throughout the Willamette Valley. Our current laws are being manipulated for this. We need SB 85 to address the issue of new industrial chicken farm operations coming into our area. I can appreciate that longtime family cattle operations are concerned about potential restrictions on their operations. Please thoughtfully consider legislation regarding new approvals of operations using massive amounts of water, and potentially polluting our groundwater, streams, and rivers. Please

institute a “pause” for more study to assure that we do not foul our ecology and environment. Once the damage is done, it will be too late to correct the harm to our great state of Oregon.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Thank you.

TO: Senator Fred Girod, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources

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TO: Senator Floyd Prozanski, Member
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