

Chair Golden and Senators of the Committee,

My name is Katie Adams, and I strongly oppose SB 85. I was raised and currently live on a family poultry farm. I want you to hear about my FAMILY and the farm that we are so proud of. My children are the 5th generation to live and work on this family farm. My family has poured blood, sweat, and tears into stewarding the earth and the animals entrusted to us. My great uncle's names are carved in the cement foundation of these barns. My extended family still congregates for reunions on this FAMILY FARM. My kids ride in the tractors with their Papa here and are learning to ride bikes and to fish and to explore. They walk up and down the chicken barns examining each little chick, asking questions, observing, and learning the family business. Does this sound like a factory farm to you? Does this sound like a meaningless burden to the environment? A cruel and inhumane operation?

There is a never ending list of regulations and certifications that all farming operations have to adhere to and we do it without hesitation. We too see the need for accountability and a standard to be held to. However, this bill will put producers out of business and that will not only effect their family farm. I hope you are able to see what our family is doing to contribute to the survival of society. We do not consume any of our own product. We do not raise these birds to feed our own families. In fact, I have not once consumed any meat that was raised in these barns. We are not doing this for our own gain. We are raising poultry to feed Americans. If SB 85 passes and producers are no longer able to expand or file for new CAFO permitting to meet the consumers need then what? What do you plan on feeding your children when animal products become so expensive due to lack of supply that they are no longer available. When foreign markets are able to provide the same products at a fraction of the cost due to availability. What about the by-products these operations provide the market, products you use in daily life without even knowing.

As an example, I too love buying eggs from the neighbor kid, but I can understand that he does not have the volume to supply eggs to the entire state. In turn seeing the need for a family farm adhering to a CAFO to supply the eggs to the bulk of the population. Please join me in thinking about our societies need for animal products being produced on CAFO adhering family farms. My concern stretches much further then my own family but that of our societies survival.

Another note worth point to make is that regarding animal welfare on CAFO adhering family farms. It is a long argued and hot topic amongst animal activists and producers alike. It has always been so strange to me that people who are not involved in animal production seem to think the producer has no concern of welfare of their own animals. I argue that our animals are better cared for then the majority of Americans family pet. The welfare, health, and happiness of these animals is in direct correlation with their production. We micromanage their comfort. We take immense pride in our animals and will always place their needs above our own. Christmas morning waits for the animals to be cared for. We are out with our animals in wind, ice, snow, rain, freezing temperatures insuring they are comfortable. We spend countless hours and dollars on the perfect nutrition regimen, veterinary services, facility upgrades and maintenance. Why would we chose to cause harm or discomfort to an animal that is supporting our livelihood? I would also argue that the agriculture producer treats our employees better then most industries. Us and many other producers not only provide health insurance and benefits but also vehicles and homes to our employees and their families. We provide first jobs for their children and grow to become large family units all working side by side.

Families in agriculture are already up against it when producing for our country. We have some of the smallest profit margins and hardest work there is in this country. We choose this industry as a way of life, a legacy, it is a passion. We take pride in our product; we take pride in feeding Americans. President John F. Kennedy once said "The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways". We are not a greedy factory farm looking to make a buck at the animal and environments expense. We are families, who are doing what we love and trying to make a living in an already challenging industry. Let us serve our communities, let us supply our grocery stores with a local product, let us insure the future of all of our youth.

I urge you to vote no on SB 85 and see CAFO operations for what they are. Responsible stewards of animals with the collective goal to fill consumers needs at a reasonable cost and with high quality.