

Submitter: Robin Lee
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

I oppose SB 85. I'm not a farmer. I don't raise or grow my own food. I depend on farmers for my food! I seriously question the judgment of whoever drafted this bill. It took only a few minutes to read it and it is clear that many broad, unsupported assumptions led to its drafting. The bill proposes to curtail something that is not proven to be a problem. Not in the broad, universal manner it is written. There may be large-scale producers who don't operate clean farms. There may be some who, as righteously alleged without documentation, by numerous submissions in 'support' of the bill, are in it for the money. Few seem to realize that dirty, slipshod farmers will lose customers, and will be held accountable by their own customers. Those in the business of feeding their families by feeding the rest of us know that to be profitable, and for the sake of survival and success of their operations, they must be diligent to keep their stock healthy and clean. I am myself a city dweller, but I am heartily amused by others who assume cruelty based only on someone having a large herd or flock.

How--or who--convinced those who decided the proper course of monitoring the risk of lackadaisical or greedy producers is to shut everyone down? Does the Dept of Agriculture not have regulations and inspectors in place to fine or close, if necessary, producers who are failing to meet reasonable standards? A more practical approach would be to hire a few more inspectors, if needed.

This bill proposes restrictions and maneuvers that will drive up prices that have already sky-rocketed. Most of what I bought last month is nearly twice what I paid this time last year. If Oregon farms are shut down, our food will have to come from out-of-state. That'll be just great for my budget; higher prices even yet! And shippers travelling farther. If you think there's too much carbon now, just pass this stupid bill, and monitor THAT increase. This bill puts the cart before the horse. What's the phase? A solution looking for a problem. Wrong-headed approach! Survey. Study. Then make recommendations. Shred this bill. USE IT FOR FERTILIZER! Don't pass SB 85. Study. Evaluate. Target the problems, not the whole industry. Thank you.