

Submitter: Heidi Geschwill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I respectfully ask you to oppose SB85 entirely. There is a lot of emotion involved with this bill, especially with a certain woman in Scio, who does not want a new chicken farm near her property. There is also emotion, because some people are using the gross violations that Cody Easterday committed with his CAFO permit. We cannot logically let one bad actor (Easterday) be the momentum to stop issuing new CAFO permits. I realize the bill is now reduced to 'no new poultry CAFO permits'. That is the beginning of the end, which is obvious. It is understandable that neighbors do not want a huge new chicken farm to move in. It is in our DNA to hate change--the view will be different, and there will be more traffic, OH NO! The folks who don't want the neighborhood to change, start arguments about ground water contamination, and smells, and dust, the list is long. Oregon has a very strict measure for issuing a CAFO permit, and I don't believe the state is in error by issuing the CAFO permit in Scio. The heated hatred against the new chicken farm is emotional and irrational, and I understand. The state cannot let feelings get in the way of logic, and competent CAFO permit issuance.

I am a 48 year-old, third generation farmer in Woodburn. My seeming indifference to the neighbors in Scio, isn't indifference. Every year I watch as residential neighborhoods take over fields we used to rent and farm. The giant Amazon building is looming to the northwest of my place. Traffic is awful, and getting worse. Not once have I railed against new housing, people need a place to live. If Amazon can do a thriving business, let them make progress. One day it may become unlivable to me and my husband, and it will be our choice to leave. My fence line neighbor built a huge two story building years ago, and pre-apologized for the view change. We said 'oh well'.

The point of my story is, that Oregon should not stop issuing new CAFO permits to people who will make a viable, and responsible business venture in Oregon. We need food, we need revenue. Please follow a path of logic when considering HB85. Those against new CAFO poultry permits are coming from an emotional, irrational point of view. They come from a position of fear for their outdoor view changing, traffic changing, fear of smells (which I understand are nil with modern day chicken raising), and fear of environmental contamination. I trust that Oregon standards do not issue CAFO permits to property that will be polluting and destroying the neighborhood.

Thank you for considering the view from a farmer, who understands I cannot be a

not-in-my-backyard kind of citizen.