

Submitter: Lisa Heilman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Thank you for letting me testify in writing why we ask you to oppose to SB 85.

We are a family-owned farm and have been since 1962 when my husband's parents purchased the property. We have increased the number of buildings on our farm since then to keep our standard of living affordable and to hire employees.

We raise NO antibiotic Ever broiler chickens. Our chickens are not crammed into buildings to the point that they have no room to roam. Our chicks are placed on fresh shavings in clean buildings. They have plenty of room to dust, roam and grow. We make sure their environment is a healthy one for them and for us. This is our livelihood. We take care of the land we own and the livestock and poultry we raise.

We have complied with CAFO since its beginning. We have all the records and permits. The regulations that CAFO requires are strict and help us to maintain high standards on our farm.

Our concern with SB 85 is the restriction to build future buildings to house chickens or to add on to the existing buildings. When the time comes that we need to sell our farm, the person who purchases it will need to expand in order to afford the farm and equipment, to keep up with inflation and to earn a healthy income. In most farming operations you need to produce a lot of product to make any money and then most of the money you do make goes back into the farm to keep it healthy and productive. It takes a certain type of person to live on a farm and raise any kind of poultry or livestock. The farm becomes your life with everything revolving around it. The care of the animals and poultry comes first. The work is never ending. The number of people going into farming is shirking so farms must increase to keep up with the demand.

Lastly, people in the Northwest are encouraged and want to purchase their food locally. Chicken is an affordable protein for them to buy. If farmers cannot build the buildings to house the chickens needed, then consumers will have to continue to purchase their food outside of the Northwest. Oregon has always been protective of its agricultural products and those farmers who produce them.

We believe SB 85 would prohibit this from happening and ask you to oppose it.

Thank You