

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 85-1

DATE: March 22, 2023

We support SB 85-1. 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.

It seems logical to us that we need a “carve out” to address a moratorium for additional necessary study per new industrial factory chicken farm operations; like the proposed Evergreen Operation adjoining our property in Linn County, on Thomas Creek.

We believe that addressing new mega industrial factory farming annually of millions of chickens can be separated from current existing beef, dairy, and small scale poultry operations per CAFO.

Currently it appears that the option for a pause or moratorium on new huge industrial chicken factory farms, like the proposed Evergreen operation at 43157 Thomas Creek Drive, Scio, which adjoins our farm, and is one half mile from a public charter elementary school, is SB 85-1 amendment. Thus we support SB 85-1.

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.

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 85-1 to address the issue of new industrial chicken farm operations coming into our area. We 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.