IN SUPPORT OF SB 85-1

Chair Golden and Members and the Committee,

My name is Lucie Gouin. I am a farmer in Scio.

Twenty-five years ago, I was not a farmer. I worked in the publishing industry where we faced a sweeping technology sea change. I worked in strategy. Our task was to turn the sea change not just into continuity for business but into as many opportunities as we could ride.

So I recognize the playbook in Scio. But this one's going to hurt resources and farmers irreparably.

Agriculture now faces a sea change of diminishing water resources. There are people in strategy at conglomerates and venture capital funds who have identified Oregon, not just as a place to migrate business to but as an opportunity to freeload and profit. They have discovered our generous water and farm laws.

There are currently 40 Tier 2 CAFOs and 90 Tier 1s in Oregon. Nothing in the Dash-1 amendment stops them from operating. However, there are over 37,000 farms in Oregon. Tier 2 CAFOs are such ENORMOUS operations, they threaten many farms and farmers for a wide radius around each, never mind water contamination that flows downstream.

The dash-1 amendment gives us a chance to mitigate the health and contamination risks of mega farm factories in Oregon better than Oklaloma, Nebraska and Maryland did. It gives us time to examine and place limits on our state's stock-watering exemption.

Dash-1 already represents a compromise that we pause only new Tier 2s. It already represents a compromise that we place our trust in the ODA to conduct impartial research.

Dash-3 does not allow enough time for our state agencies to study and propose new rules. Neither does it prevent poultry factories from establishing Tier 1 operations until they can get the green light for Tier 2 within two years. Dash-3 does not protect Scio, or the rest of Oregon farmers, or Oregon's land and water resources.

Please protect the many. Please move 85-1 out of committee.