



Oregon Senate Committee on Rules
In Support of SB 85
May 3, 2023

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

Willamette Riverkeeper, an Oregon 501(c)(3) nonprofit with approximately 7,000 members and supporters, submits the following testimony supporting both SB 85 -1 and SB 85 -4. Since 1996, Willamette Riverkeeper has proudly served as the eyes, ears, and voice of the Willamette River Basin waters. The Willamette, Santiam, Molalla, Clackamas, Tualatin, Yamhill, Calapooia, McKenzie, Long Tom, and Luckiamute Rivers are important not just for fishing and recreation, but also for our threatened salmonid habitat, our wildlife, and our fellow Oregonians in the Willamette Valley who rely on these waters for their drinking water.

Willamette Riverkeeper is driven to protect the rivers, creeks, tributaries, and side channels of the entire Basin, and our conservation and cleanup programs enable us and our volunteers to generate positive change for the Willamette River. We believe in a river with excellent water quality and abundant habitat, and safe for fishing and recreation. This is a fundamental public right.

Willamette Riverkeeper has previously written testimony in support of SB 85 -1, which can be viewed [here](#). In the alternative, Willamette Riverkeeper could also support the SB 85 -4 amendments. While the -1 amendment would be preferable, the -4 amendments do address some of the concerns Willamette Riverkeeper had that we believed needed to be addressed by the legislature.

One concern we had with the building of new Tier 2 poultry CAFOs was where the manure would be transported to and who it would be used by due to the research showing the effects of chicken litter on waterways and groundwater. Willamette Riverkeeper appreciates the new language, which requires recipients of this manure to have a nutrient land-application permit.

We are also concerned about the quantity of water that large CAFO operations use, so the language limiting the amount of stockwater-exempt water that can be used is a step in the right direction. While, preferably, new CAFOs would not be able to use any free water, especially in the more arid parts of the state, we do believe that the 12,000 gallons per day limit seems to be an acceptable compromise. However, we would urge the legislature not to allow for averaging out, but rather expressly limit this to 12,000 per day with a fine if the operation goes over that amount on any day. To assist in monitoring and enforcement, we also believe that new and expanding CAFOs should be explicitly required to install water metering devices, and this requirement should not be left up to the discretion of the Oregon Water Resources Department.



One of Willamette Riverkeeper's greatest concerns is the siting of these large CAFO operations. Because of this, the -4 siting requirements are greatly appreciated and would help protect our most vulnerable populations and the waterways humans and wildlife rely on. The 880-yard siting requirement would help protect federally-listed threatened salmonids, as well as vital drinking water sources. We also support cities and counties having the final say of what will work in their communities and having the discretion to approve or deny these operations.

SB 85 -4 addresses many of Willamette Riverkeeper's concerns about the expansion and creation of new CAFOs, and we support both the -1 and -4 amendments.

If you would like additional information on how these issues affect the Willamette River Basin, we stand ready to assist you. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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