

Submitter: Kendra Kimbirauskas  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB85

Chair Lieber and members of the Committee,

My name is Kendra Kimbirauskas and I live and farm in Scio, a community that is being targeted by a multinational corporation looking to expand massive poultry operations next to our farms and homes, next to a rural Scio school, in the middle of a rural neighborhoods and on the banks of Thomas Creek and the North Santiam River.

We have known for a long time that Oregon's laws are flawed when it comes to adequately protecting family farmers and rural communities from industrial-scale livestock operations.

However, nothing could underscore just how problematic and underprepared our existing regulatory scheme is, than the experience that my community has been through for the last two years as we have organized to protect our homes, farms, water and property values.

Last week, I traveled to Shelby, Nebraska and met with farmers who have been impacted by industrial-scale poultry operations that are linked to the same entities attempting to establish poultry operations in our community. The farmers' lives have been devastated, their well water is undrinkable and they can't leave because everything they have is tied up in their property, which is now only a percentage of its original value. My trip last week underscored that our concerns are without a doubt valid and the time to act to protect our state is now.

I am incredibly grateful to Senators Dembrow and Golden for listening to us, hearing our concerns and working tirelessly to find meaningful solutions to protect our community.

We encourage you to pass the -4 out of committee. While we think there is more to do to ensure our rural communities are protected from the negative impact of industrial scale livestock operations, we think this amendment moves the state in the right direction.

We look forward to continuing to work with this body to protect the health of rural people while ensuring that there are not unintended consequences of new regulations on our local farms and ranches.

Thank you.