

Submitter: Eric Simon
On Behalf Of: Myself and family
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB85

Hello,

My name is Eric Simon. I am the owner and operator of a commercial poultry ranch in Brownsville Oregon where my wife and I have worked and raised our family for the last 23 years. Unfortunately, you have heard testimony about how terrible poultry ranching is and how it will negatively affect communities in Oregon. As far as I know all this testimony has been given by people who have never lived on or worked on a poultry ranch. My home is 400' from our barns. My daughter recently got married in our back yard with 300 people in attendance. The truth is most people don't even know we grow chickens in our own community. We have been raising poultry to supply local grocery stores with local meat without problems from neighbors, state regulators and communities we live in for the past 23 years.

As small farmers retire or sell to urbanization, we need to build replacement square footage to meet the market demands and keep our overhead low. That is the truth of what we are doing. We are also a fertilizer company, producing valuable nutrients that we sell for top dollar to other farmers. Just like other commercial fertilizers, it's valued and not wasted.

It is time our farms are valued for what they contribute to our NW community. There is no other protein that has become more efficient at utilizing our resources than chicken. Over the past 23 years that I have been raising chickens we have become more efficient in several areas. Through selective breeding the birds convert feed to growth much better. That means we now use 19% less electricity, 42% less agricultural land, 18% less trucking, 19% less greenhouse gases, .15 gal less water per bird, and 28% less nitrate and phosphate produced than 23 years ago. Our operations should be praised for our efficiency not saddled with new restrictions. We are already monitored by the state and found to be almost 100% compliant as an industry.

So before you pass on bills and amendments written up by legislators that live in the city and have no CAFO's in their district please do your own local research. Drive past our local poultry ranches for yourself or talk to the representatives that have toured our ranches. Stop and enjoy the rural setting and see for yourself if we have ruined the communities, we are in. I can tell you we have not. I would hate to see local food production be forced out of state by this legislature and families not able to pass on ranches to the next generation. Please vote against SB 85 and keep food production local.

Thank you.

Eric Simon