

Submitter: Tim Nesbitt  
On Behalf Of: Fruition Farms LLC  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB85

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

From my experience as the manager of an apple orchard in Scio, Oregon, during the past nine years, and from my perspective as an advisor to former governors in the past, I am pleased to see the fine work reflected in SB 85-4 to address the problems with the expansion of poultry CAFOs in the mid-Willamette Valley.

The greatest threats posed by these CAFOs affect our water supplies, an issue which this legislation addresses by:

- curtailing the use of the stock watering exemption, which now allows access to large quantities of groundwater for industrial animal-raising operations without a required permit, even in areas now known to be groundwater limited;
- requiring setbacks from streams and school buildings, thereby protecting habitat for fish and drinking water for children;
- improving and updating groundwater management systems to better monitor and respond to the impacts on groundwater quantity and quality from these operations.

The reforms contained in SB 85-4 are reasonable, well-targeted and appropriate responses to the impact of poultry CAFOs in the mid-Valley and throughout the state. This is not a bill for a moratorium (with unknown outcomes) nor is it a prohibition on new CAFOs. Rather it is a long-overdue and well-considered response to developments which have been slowly, and now rapidly, changing the nature of animal-raising and its impacts on farmland and farming communities in Oregon.

I appreciate the work that has gone into this legislation as amended, and I am pleased to express our support.

Tim Nesbitt  
Managing Member  
FRUITION FARMS LLC