

Submitter: Lisa Heilman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Testimony to oppose HB 85

Please oppose SB 85. This bill will hurt family farms and would have hurt us, and could still hurt us if it is a law.

Our farm has been in operation since 1962. We have always been a family farm and not a factory farm. We have always taken pride in how we raised poultry and livestock and how we have cared for the land around us.

It began as a turkey hatching egg farm with all the turkeys having to be outside. When my in-laws could afford it, they built a building big enough to house 2,000 turkeys. They also built a barn to raise cattle. Then in 1976, my husband, Ed, wanted to farm with his dad, so they built another building to house more turkeys and a building for the toms. This way the two could have an income and employ a few people. When Ed and I got married and began our own family we needed another building for the hens and one for the toms so both families could make a living and employ 8 employees. When the turkey industry left Oregon in 1997 or so, we turned to raising broiler chickens for Draper Valley Farms. We had to revamp three of the big buildings to grow the chickens. In 2004 we built a bigger chicken house so our income could stay the same and hopefully hire an employee. Then in 2015 we built our latest chicken building so we could hire an employee full time and still have enough for ourselves. If HB 85 was a law, we would not have been able to build these buildings which we need to employ ourselves and others.

We have conformed to the regulations set forth in Oregon through the CAFO program since its beginning. We have a permit and all the records needed to show we comply.

If our adult children or grandchildren wanted to farm with us we may need to build another building so they could make an income. Poultry farmers do not make lots of money. We are always improving our facilities and the land we own. Or if we decided to sell our farm when we feel it is time to retire or could no longer farm it because of health issues, the new owners may need to build additional chicken buildings so they could afford to farm. Farmland in Oregon, especially where we live, is very expensive. A young person would need a lot of capital to raise chickens. HB 85 would prevent this from happening because they would not be able to build.

More restriction will only hinder the production of local food production and in Oregon

the push has been to buy local. Poultry farmers care for their birds and the land around them. It is their livelihood. It is what they want to pass down to the next generation in good order.

Please oppose SB 85 and all the other bills that will hinder farming through regulations and those that will increase the cost of fuel and equipment through taxes and other means.

Thank you,
Lisa Heilman