

Submitter: Margaret Stephens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I support this bill because it will help safeguard rural communities and stop the proliferation of industrial animal operations until better laws can be put into place to protect the communities these industrial operations are moving into and expanding in. For example, there are 3 proposed confined animal feeding operations in Linn County - these are for chickens. Chicken waste is "dry litter" so it cannot enter the groundwater or surface water systems. However, this "dry litter" is sold as fertilizer and spread over fields which are regularly watered, and the runoff enters both groundwater and surface waters. The three proposed CAFOs in Linn County are either along or near the river and are on land that regularly floods in the winter. This guarantees the "dry litter" will become wet and will enter our surface water and groundwater systems, which will harm aquatic and wildlife habitat and pollute well systems these communities rely on. These operations are opposed by local residents and other Oregonians who wish to protect waterways and groundwater.