

Submitter: Glenda Brooking

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Dear Senator Golden and members of the Committee:

My name is Glenda Brooking and my husband, Monty and I live and have a small farm in Scio next door to where the proposed J-S ranch is seeking to be sited. We support agriculture and farmers but the expansion of these mega poultry operations into our rural community is completely different than the farms and the agriculture that currently surrounds our farm.

I have many concerns about the impact of these mega operations on my home and my community and I am frustrated that Oregon law doesn't protect me, my farm or my ability to enjoy my property, even though my family was here first. Oregon laws seem to be written to benefit a corporation, with an operator that has a primary residence in another community, over an hour away. Why does Oregon law favor his farm business over my farm?

Because Oregon doesn't regulate air quality from industrial agriculture operations, my family and I will be subject to unmitigated ammonia emission that will impact our health and our ability to be outside or open our windows. I am concerned about the air quality and if my grandchildren will be safe to play outside. We enjoy being outside with family and friends.

My family, our animals and our household pets drink from our well. This is our only source of water. There appears to be no mechanism to ensure that our well water remains safe and I have little faith that the conditions that the ODA put on the permit for J-S ranch are protective. When our well becomes contaminated, who is responsible for paying for it to be cleaned up? Will ODA? Will Foster Farms? Will Eric Simon?

I am also concerned about constant traffic. We know poultry operations require hundreds of semi trucks and that traffic is around the clock all year long. I am not only worried about the nuisance of living next to an operation with constant truck traffic and light pollution, but I am worried about the safety of our family members, pets and livestock.

I urge the committee to take action to protect our rural communities from the impacts that these operations will have on the people who are farming and living here.

Thank you for all you are doing and for taking the time to hear and consider all of the concerns and comments presented to you today.