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Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

A stable food supply and robust supply chain is critical to national and state security. This has never been more important than today with record inflation, rising gas and food prices, countless food processing plant fires, scores of egg disasters, fertilizer shortages, economic malaise, and the impacts of foreign wars which have yet to be fully felt. These conditions are real and threaten our economy and food security directly and indirectly. At times like this our legislators should take great care to "do no harm" to Oregon's agriculture industry and our food supply. Legislature should listen carefully to our agriculture and beef industries in times like these, and "do no harm". Oregon's rich agriculture and beef industries are strategic anchors in our economy and key to managing inflation and ensuring our food security.

This is not the time to experiment with "best intentions" and unintended consequences. This is the time to protect what we have and prepare against the high risk of scarcity that is already here and growing on the horizon. SB 85 is the wrong bill for these times. It will negatively impact our agricultural food supply and supply chain security. It will drive inflationary forces and deliver scarcity and uncertainty. Legislative support for SB 85 is willful disregard for Oregon's best interests.

There is nothing inherently wrong with studying agricultural operations, but this Bill puts the cart before the horse. It assumes there is or might be a problem (which there is not) and assumes that the best solution to the hypothetical problem is stopping the industry in its tracks (or at least for five years), or at least until such time as the legislature in its infinite wisdom has come up with something else. This is a formula for disaster.

SB 85 is a threat to our economic and food security in perilous times. It is a solution (posing as a study) that is looking for a problem (while assuming there is one). It will only drive recession, scarcity, inflation, and higher food costs. Say NO to SB 85. There is NO upside.

Best,