

Submitter: Cheryl McDowell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Please vote YES on SB85.

This bill will 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.

Currently, there are three proposed poultry CAFOs in the Scio/Stayton/Jordan areas in Linn County that would pollute air and water quality along the North Santiam River and harm the rural communities in the area.

The poultry lobby claims that 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. Additionally, 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.

The goal of Oregon's agriculture policy should be to provide Oregonians with safe, healthy, locally grown food. Small family farms need to be preserved and supported. We should not be courting big factory farms that pollute our environment and produce low-quality food. SB 85 will help rural communities and urban communities that rely on food grown on family farms right here in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Cheryl McDowell
Portland, OR