

This testimony **in support** of HSB85-1 is offered by May Garland and Roger Gaither. We reside at 38795 N. Main Street in Scio. We moved to Scio 33 years ago because we wanted to live in a small quiet town and be able to take advantage of the many outdoor opportunities offered by the region.

Our primary means of enjoying the Scio area has been through bicycling. Over the years we have bicycled with organized clubs and participated in their annual biking events. Bike events bring lots of riders to Scio. The Mid-Valley Bicycle Club hosts a Covered Bridge Bicycle Tour each August which brings 500+ riders through downtown Scio. The Salem Bicycle Club hosts an annual ride called A Peach of a Century which likewise brings lots of riders our way.

These groups and other individual riders consider Scio a really great bicycling destination - a pretty small town with a welcoming cafe that has restrooms! These riders may be from Salem, Corvallis, Albany, Eugene, or Portland.

During the summer months Roger and I host occasional Saturday bicycle rides from our home. A group of 12 to 25 riders spend three to four hours pedaling on these quiet country roads, frequently ride through one or more of the five covered bridges that define Scio.

Yes, we are all about bicycling - a healthy activity that adults can pursue well into their later years.

Installing large corporate chicken farms will threaten the viability of bicycling in the Scio area in at least three ways:

First, the quiet, lightly traveled two-lane roads will be more dangerous when they are used by large commercial vehicles. On roads without paved shoulders, bicyclists must be in single file on the road. They have no place to go when vehicles approach. Hence, the vehicles must slow down. When large trucks whose drivers are trying to meet a delivery schedule encounter bicyclists, they may find them annoying and become impatient. This quickly becomes dangerous to everyone.

Second, visibility of bicyclists on the road is limited on our curvy roads. Again, the speed and size of vehicles approaching from the rear are factors that concern the riders. Formerly safe roads become dangerous.

Third, diesel trucks that transport supplies, etc, for the corporate chicken farms, emit a huge amount of polluting exhaust. These fumes, venting at the level of the riders' heads, are inhaled by every bicyclists they pass.

To date, "our" roads offer lower risks with fewer cars and trucks being driven more slowly along narrow, curvy secondary roads. With increased traffic, more large trucks, and increased speed, bicyclists will likely re-evaluate coming to Scio to ride. All bicyclists recognize a level of risks in their choice to be on the roads. These conditions may exceed their threshold of danger.

Please remember that in Oregon bicyclists have a legal right to be on the roads and they must obey the laws. SB85-1 would ensure that the quality of life we enjoy would be protected. We hope also that you will preserve our opportunity to use and enjoy the roads around Scio.

Testimony submitted by May Garland and Roger Gaither.