

Chair Golden and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of SB 85. I have lived in the Jordan area for most of my 37 years and am a landowner adjacent to the proposed Evergreen Ranch poultry CAFO between Scio and Lyons. It is necessary to push “pause” on poultry CAFO operations of this size until the effects of these mega-CAFOs are better understood, and the neighboring communities are protected by updated rules and laws. These poultry CAFOs are unprecedented in size in Oregon – double to quadruple of the largest currently in the state.

Poultry CAFO-related issues are well documented around the country. Those opposed to this bill and in support of the mega-CAFOs will say their operations are not detrimental and that there are enough laws in place to protect neighboring properties and water. This is not the case, and here is an example of these operations only doing the minimum required by law:

Prior to closing on the land sale at the Evergreen Ranch site in early 2022 and shortly thereafter, water well drilling commenced. When the initial well sites located in close proximity to the proposed CAFO site did not yield enough, yet another well was drilled slightly over 100 feet from my parent’s well - a legal distance. When an industrial landowner of over 90 acres chooses the minimum offset from a neighbor’s residential well, it is clear that nothing beneficial will be done for neighbors and communities beyond what is required by statute.

This is the CAFO that could change my community for the worse. But without better laws, this is what to expect statewide if mega-poultry is allowed to expand under ag exemptions as there are not sufficient regulations in place to protect our water and communities. Oregon’s livestock water exemption predates the idea of millions of chickens annually confined in 16 60’x600’ barns.

I urge you to support SB 85.

Christopher Duman

Scio, OR