

Submitter: James Tabor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Chair Golden and members of the committee:

I am Dr. James Tabor. I teach theology at Regis High School in Stayton, Oregon and a number of my students come from the Jordan area of Scio where one of the large-scale factory farms desires to be located. I am writing today to show my support for SB 85-1. As a local citizen, I am concerned about the proposed massive poultry operation for the following reasons.

Stewardship of the Land: We are all called to look after the land and work in harmony with creation. To do this well, we must have the proper data to make sound decisions on whether to allow CAFO's to operate in new locations. This is especially important for areas that are environmentally pristine as we find in Jordan. Relying on old legislation to make such decisions without additional studies to address well-found environmental concerns that have been raised with CAFOs in this location is short-sighted. Oregon has a reputation for being a leader in protecting the environment and should look to be so again in how it addresses CAFOs. Passing SB 85-1 will provide the state the opportunity to do so.

Subsidiarity: The concept of subsidiarity advocates that decisions should be made at the local level whenever it is proper and prudent. In addition, when decisions are made the people that are most affected by the decision should have their voices heard and respected. The current legislation effectively prevents the county government from exercising appropriate jurisdiction over CAFOs. In effect, this limits the voices of local citizens in decision-making within their local communities. It treats all farmland the same no matter where it is located (ie right next to a school, church, or river) and does not take into account the beauty of the surrounding area or the lifestyles of the generations of farmers and ranchers. To give a voice to the people of the Scio area, it is critically important that SB 85-1 be passed.

Feeding the Soul: Farmers not only provide us with food but their preservation of the land also feeds the soul of all Oregonians. People have come to the Jordan area to refresh themselves for over 100 years to enjoy biking, hiking, swimming, and worshipping in a community that respects the earth. The inclusion of CAFOs will alter this reality as the noise of trucks break the silence of nature as they take millions of chickens to market and the potential smell of the facility moves downwind. SB 85-1 will allow the proper study of the proposed massive chicken farm to ensure that appropriate regulations are in place to ensure future generations can continue to feed their souls by visiting Jordon.

For all of the above reasons, it is only prudent that we put a pause on the permitting of new and expanding CAFOs until we can adequately study and address the impacts that these operations will have on our state.

Please support SB 85-1.