

To whom it may concern,

I am in support of SB 85, and I support long-term food production in Oregon.

My name is Julie Rauch. I was born and raised in Linn County, Oregon, where I still have family owning and residing on over 100 rural acres. I currently reside in Marion County, Oregon.

My family has lived and owned property in Linn County for over 100 years. We've been a part of the Oregon logging and farming industries, and are long time supporters of both.

I respectfully ask that you pause all permitting of mega poultry CAFOs until we have adequate laws in place to protect our environment and the health of our citizens. These proposed mega poultry CAFOs will cause certain damage when placed as close to waterways and dwellings as you interpret current Oregon law to allow, particularly since they are some of the largest proposed poultry CAFO's in the United States.

I am attaching two published studies regarding environmental and health impacts of mega poultry CAFO's as co-authored by Brian Schwartz, Professor of Environmental Health and Engineering and of Environmental Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. His website is <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/624/brian-schwartz>

Study titles included below for reference:

1) Residential proximity to high-density poultry operations associated with campylobacteriosis and infectious diarrhea. (2018)

2) High-density poultry operations and community- acquired pneumonia in Pennsylvania. (2018)

If "dilution is the solution" for mitigating environmental risk and human exposure to toxins, a high density mega poultry CAFO is not an effective part of this strategy.

The proposed poultry CAFO's are near established rural residential communities. The air emissions of ammonia and bacteria laden dust would affect the health of the waterways and neighbors. The proposed Evergreen Ranch is a half mile from a school, church and 230 feet from Thomas Creek. Current Oregon law requires a setback of only 50 feet between the CAFO barns and neighbors.

In addition, there are inadequate laws to protect our state's ground water resources. A mega poultry CAFO can technically monopolize the groundwater in a community. Established neighbors with decades, even centuries, of water rights will have to be out of water before there is any protection for them.

Oregon is a low impact agricultural state, and we want it to remain that way. We need updated laws to ensure that the waterways are safe and healthy for our residents and the aquatic life they support. The air Oregonians breathe needs to stay safe. We need the assurance there will be enough ground water for current residents and that new industries coming to our state use technologies that seek to reduce the amount of water needed to operate effectively.

I think it is also important to point out that current business ethics issues we find today in the poultry industry. As you may be aware, the US Department of Justice is suing poultry producers, seeking \$84M in restitution, for abusive worker practices, and filing a consent decree in the case.

<https://apnews.com/article/lawsuits-government-and-politics-afae51aeb2079d42bbdca7f529139c81>

In its lawsuit, the Justice Department alleges the companies have been engaged in a multiyear conspiracy to exchange information about the wages and benefits of workers at poultry processing plants to drive down employee competition in the marketplace. The government contends the data consulting firm helped to share the information about the workers' compensation with the companies and their executives. By carrying out the scheme, officials allege, the companies were able to compete less intensely for workers and reduce the amount of money and benefits they had to offer their employees, suppressing competition for poultry processing workers across the board, according to court papers. The defendants and unnamed co-conspirators in the lawsuit account for hiring about 90% of all chicken processing jobs in the nation.

It has been established in other states, such as California, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Texas, the Carolinas, etc..., that the current management of large poultry CAFO's has caused damage to the environment and to public health. Their laws are changing in an attempt to repair the damage that has already been caused.

Oregon has the opportunity to use experience and information from other states and peer-reviewed scientific research to protect our state's environment, public health, and workforce. We don't have to wait for known, well-established problems to happen here before we choose to take action. We can pause the permitting process for larger poultry CAFO's and create legal safeguards to protect our environment and maintain our current standards for public health. After that has been established, with due diligence and public input, we can welcome poultry CAFO's with safe environmental and public health practices into our state.

Sincerely,

Julie Rauch