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Written Testimony

I support SB 85-1.

The proposed CAFOs we are currently dealing with in our community of Scio are chicken broiler CAFOs.

The EPA defines a large broiler operation as one that has 125,000 chickens per year. The operations we are talking about are on average 30 times this size. A large tier-2 broiler dry-waste operation is set at 300,000 birds by the ODA. These proposed operations are over 10 times this size. In fact, they are going to be some of the largest in the nation.

With these extremely large operations come extremely large risks for the environment and rural communities.

There are likely to be upward of 20 of these very large operations in the Willamette Valley. The three current proposals and their proposed sitings demonstrate a complete lack of common sense and concern for our rural communities by their operators. I don't know a rational farmer who would think these sitings are a good idea.

Evergreen Ranch in Jordan is a ½ mile from Lourdes Charter School which has been operating for 125 years and has sent thousands of rural kids to college. Their barns will be within 50 feet of a home for adults with disabilities. It will be within a ½ mile of our church. Oh, and by the way, it is on a bluff above Thomas Creek in an area that has groundwater issues.

J-S Ranch is on the North Santiam. A river notorious for its movement and flooding.

The proposed operation off Shaff Road is within 2 miles of our Stayton public schools and Regis St. Mary Catholic school.

This is an assault on rural communities and our way of life.

Will the legislature, the DEQ, and the ODA apologize to parents when sports games are canceled because of air quality issues? Will you apologize when Lourdes Charter

School closes its doors? And who will be responsible when our children have breathing issues and lung disease?

This is a disaster waiting to happen and we will hold the legislature, the ODA, and the DEQ responsible for their impotence, lack of action, and unwillingness to enact common-sense rules.

The ODA tells us they can't be held responsible for accidents. They use the analogy of issuing a driver's license by the DMV. Most folk know that a 16-year-old who has just passed his driving test should not get into a semi-truck and drive down the I5 at full speed during rush hour.

Despite assurances from the chicken council and the operators, we all know better. And we should do better to protect our children and the Oregon we love.

Support SB 85-1 and stop the permitting of large tier 2 CAFOs until the legislature, the ODA and the DEQ get their house in order.