

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, and members of the committee, I am Mark Oldenkamp, vice president for Northwest operations at Valley Fresh Foods. I am here today to speak in opposition to SB 85. For my entire 42 plus year career, I have managed the egg production operations for this family-owned farm here in Oregon. I earned my Masters Degree in Poultry Nutrition from Oregon State University in 1981 and have proudly invested my entire career in this family farm while helping navigate and comply with the ever-changing regulatory requirements that animal production operations face.

Our farm is a Large CAFO that has maintained an excellent record with the Oregon Department of Agriculture Confined Animal Feeding Operation program. We are currently working hard to comply with legislation that we supported that requires all eggs produced and sold in Oregon meet the United Egg Producers Cage Free standards by January 1, 2024. These changes are multi-million-dollar investments on top of many other investments we've made in this operation. Farms are audited annually for many regulatory programs, and we have maintained an excellent compliance track record while being a good neighbor and an important part of our community.

We are a vertically integrated farm, raising our own chickens, producing our own feed, managing the hens, grading the eggs and marketing to many of the major retailers in Oregon and the Northwest. The cost of the new production systems is high and as the consumer base in Oregon grows, more food will be needed. Currently this production does not produce 100% of the current demand of our customers and we rely on supplemental supply from out of state. Consumers in Oregon consistently have demonstrated they prefer locally produced food, and we strive to provide this. We need to be able to build additional supply as consumer demand increases. This is true for other kinds of ag production as well.

We employ over 100 employees year-round with jobs that pay good wages, with excellent benefits, including a 401k and profit-sharing program. We invest in our people. We have many higher skilled and compensated positions because our business depends on technology to remain competitive and to meet and exceed regulatory demands.

**This kind of legislation will push food production to other states. It will cost jobs. It will reduce Oregonians' local food choices. It will hurt our communities. This is not what Oregonians want.**

**I urge you to vote no on this and the other related proposals that are before the Oregon Legislature this session.**

**Thank you for your time.**

**Mark Oldenkamp  
VP Operations, Valley Fresh Foods**