

Submitter: Colleen LaMarsh  
On Behalf Of: Blueberry Sunrise Farm  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources  
Measure: SB85

Dear Chair Golden and members of the committee,

My name is Colleen LaMarsh and I am a long-time farmer, 4-H leader and resident of Molalla where I have lived since 1979. I am writing to share my experience with a Foster Farms operation that moved into my neighborhood in approximately 2006.

The operation was constructed without notifying the neighbors and the barns were erected before we even knew what was being built. We had no opportunity to provide input on the construction of the poultry facility because it was considered an "agricultural operation." The owner lives in California.

This operation has harmed my quality of life on my farm. Living downwind, I have been exposed to the terrible smell emanating from the barns and mortality composting site. It is so bad that I can't open my windows, and the stench can last for days on end. When people come to my farm, I have had to explain what the smell is and apologize for it. As you can imagine, this has been extremely embarrassing.

Despite my complaints to the county, they have responded by saying that I live in an agricultural zone and that there is nothing they can do and the state has said that they don't regulate air emissions. In addition to diminishing the quality of life for my family, this operation has caused extensive damage to the roads due to the heavy feed trucks and chicken trucks. Our roads was once weight-limited, but the chicken operation has been allowed to utilize the roads.

As a farmer and animal agriculture advocate, I support agriculture and believe that it is an important part of our economy. However, I also believe that operations like this must be held accountable for the damage they cause to the environment and to the quality of life of nearby residents.

I urge you to consider the impact of large industrial agricultural operations on rural communities and to take measures to ensure that they are not allowed to operate without adequate safeguards for public health and the environment. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Please Support SB 85-1.

Sincerely,

Colleen LaMarsh