

Submitter: Denise Busch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

Chair Golden and members of the committee:

I support SB 85-1.

I am a nurse practitioner and I care about the quality of our water and food as well as maintaining local farms. I am deeply troubled by the proposed massive poultry operations in Oregon and the impact they will have on the viability of our rural communities, our farms and our ranches.

These massive operations will negatively impact our air, water and both the viability and liveability of our local communities. It is also clear that our current laws and regulations have not kept up to date with the impacts that these operations could have.

Specifically, I am troubled that Oregon does not currently regulate air emissions from large CAFOs and one of the proposals is for 4.6 million birds less than a mile from a school. The state also does not limit that amount of groundwater that these operations can use, even when a facility is being proposed in a groundwater management area that is known to have a limited quantity of ground water. Lastly, we have been told by our county commissioners that the state has taken away their authority to put any reasonable safeguards on where mega poultry operations can be sited, which is ludicrous particularly when the county has a much better understanding of the local area and how these operations could negatively impact local farms, rural businesses and the people living here.

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.