

Submitter: Linda Duman
On Behalf Of: Lourdes Public Charter School
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

Linda Duman
Lourdes Public Charter School
Support SB 85-1

Thank you Senator Golden for your work on this bill. However, I think that at this time it would be prudent to move SB85-1 out of committee Linda Duman because SB-3 has too short of a time period for the research needed. SB85 -3 is not protective enough and will not protect our community from industrial chicken operations moving in;

The current problem in Morrow County proves that it will take longer than two years to establish rules that will address the pollution issues from CAFOs and waste water management:

- In 1990, DEQ designated LUBGWA, Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management System, to address nitrate contamination in Morrow and Umatilla counties: \$2.1 million in fines were issued by DEQ, but nothing was done to correct the issue.
- EPA petitioned in 2020 to have emergency action taken in Morrow county under the drinking water act, nothing yet has been done.
- EPA restarted an initiative from the early 2000s to estimated air emissions from a range of confined animal feeding operations including poultry with results anticipated in 2023. So far, has their study addressed the issue of mega poultry farms?
- In 2022, OHA conducted a high-level review of available research on potential human health concerns related to air emissions from high-density poultry farming. They concluded "All six studies state that additional research is needed to either confirm key results or more fully characterize the range of potential health effects to neighbors of high-density poultry farming."
It is scientifically proven that the waste from poultry CAFO's is 2-4 times stronger in nitrates and phosphorus than mammal waste.
- Now millions of dollars are needed to restore clean drinking water to Morrow and Umatilla counties. The water has so contaminated their wells that filtering does not always clean the water.

Casey Sixkiller, a regional administrator of EPA in Seattle has been contacted and will be visiting Morrow county to assess the crisis.

Given this past history of EPA, OHA, DEQ, it does not seem realistic that they can have sufficient trainings, rules, and guidelines that fit the needs of all CAFOs in two years. Will they use scientific data and the problems experienced in other states or will they be swayed by the large, out of state poultry companies who are

desperately lobbying in Oregon to skip the time it will take to make fair equitable Oregon guidelines? Will the rural areas that use water from wells be protected from nitrogen pollution? Will our water sheds be protected from illegal waste management? The farm next to our school is owned by Southeast AG investment LLC from North Carolina and would be the largest poultry farm in Oregon. The farm sits less than 300 feet from Thomas Creek our water shed, and in a rural area of a school and homes with wells.

This is not asking that you shut down current farms, but that new mega CAFOs be stopped until Oregon is ready to equitably manage them. I hope this is possible.

Linda Duman
Lourdes Public Charter School