

Submitter: Gary and Denise Silbernagel
On Behalf Of: Elk Cattle Company
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB85

March 4, 2023, & March 23, 2023

Please support 85-1 and move it out of committee, We are not opposed to having more cows than is listed as a tier two though, 85-3 does not protect us and our water and the chicken people will wait you out after they build to tier one and build to tier two as soon as the 2 years is up.

Chair Golden and Members of the Committee;

Our family has been in the area for over 137 years. We have made our living farming and in timber the entire time. We are the family farmers this fight is about. We completely support logging and low impact agriculture in this state. Low impact and sustainable. We support SB 85

We must protect our water and air to ensure a healthy environment for all living creatures. In my neighborhood the proposed CAFO site is right next to the beautiful Lourdes Catholic Church and School. My family has worshipped at that church for its entire existence! We have an annual fundraiser in September every year. Vintage planes fly in and there is a huge car show. People eat outside. This is ½ mile from the proposed Evergreen site. Can you imagine the flies? This would have an enormous detrimental impact. On the fundraising, our children at their school, and us as parishioners. Thomas Creek borders the proposed site and "Broken Dam" swimming area is right there. Bacteria is documented to travel 3000 meters. All of these activities are in the 3000-meter reach.

Looking at the plans for Evergreen you can see they have plans for a "litter shed" right by a property line. How can this even be allowed. None of us were asked if this would be okay. We were not even informed, we just found out incidentally.

Additionally, the wells in this area are poor at best and Evergreen has drilled at least 6 on the place with some of them being drilled at 280 feet. That could pull what little is in the aquifer from the other neighbors.

Please let's pause the permitting and get laws in place to protect our air, water, and community.

Most Sincerely,

Gary and Denise Silbernagel
Elk Cattle Company LLC

