

As a resident of Williams County, I am opposed to a multi-million laying hen facility locating in or near my community.

I am deeply disappointed that the State Legislature has taken away local control over the siting of major agricultural facilities despite their far-reaching impacts.

I am also disappointed in the current Ohio Department of Agriculture livestock permitting system that does not address quality of life issues, depreciation of property values, and possible health risks to area residents and businesses.

By failing to address these issues, the Ohio Legislature and the Department of Agriculture have failed to protect our property rights and have instead chosen to sacrifice the rights of Ohio's citizens for the economic advantage of a few.

Williams County has a population of more than 90 people per square mile. There is no place in the County that a multi-million laying hen operation could be sited that would not harm a nearby community.

Williams County also has a unique resource -- its aquifer. More than 14,000 years old, this aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for the entire county population. This precious resource is too valuable to be threatened with contamination by a chicken mega-factory; instead, it calls for special protection.

Our county is rural with a proud and long-standing tradition of farming. We know and even appreciate the smells of small farms in our area, but we will not accept the smell, pollution, flies, and property depreciation that an outside company's huge chicken mega-operation would bring. This is not agriculture; this is industry, and it should be regulated as such.

Keep Fremont Farms LLC out of Williams County.

Sincerely,