

Submitter: Susan Leonard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

I have lived in Oregon for almost 4 years but grew up on a farm in northwest Iowa. The Floyd River (named for Sergeant Floyd who was the only white person who died during the Lewis and Clark Expedition) ran through our farm property. As a kid, I spent lots of time outdoors and the Floyd, along with other Iowa waterways, was safe for swimming and boating. That was over 60 years ago and sadly now about 60% of Iowa's waterways are considered polluted enough to not be safe for recreational use. Much of the pollution in Iowa comes from runoff from agricultural lands but a substantial amount is from the waste generated on CAFOs. Even with close regulation, CAFO waste pollution can happen.

It became clear to me during last week's public hearing that the agencies in charge of permitting, regulating, and inspecting CAFOs in Oregon are understaffed. As reported, inspections of CAFOs are completed less often than would be optimal. Finding waste runoff problems after they have happened isn't good enough.

I moved to Oregon because of the natural, pristine beauty of this state. It would be sad to see Oregon's waterways polluted by the waste from CAFOs.