

I am writing in support of a moratorium on large industrial CAFO operations as proposed in SB 85. I oppose the 85-3 amendments that remove all but poultry CAFOs. Before retirement I worked on non-point pollution problems in Oregon for many years and am very familiar with the pollution large scale CAFOs can cause. With the proliferation of these operations in recent years, it is past time for Oregon to take a serious look at how to control these industrial agricultural sources.

If legislators do not believe a statewide moratorium is feasible at this time, I urge you to at least consider a moratorium on mega-dairies in areas of the state where nitrate pollution is already known to exist. There are three Groundwater Management Areas in Oregon where industrial agriculture is known to contribute to nitrate pollution, and has been known for many years, yet it still persists: Lower Umatilla Basin, Northern Malheur Basin, and Southern Willamette Basin. I hope that you are aware that there is currently a drinking water emergency in the Lower Umatilla. While a moratorium will not, by itself, correct these problems, it will go a long way toward addressing these issues.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Mitch Wolgamott

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