

To Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and the Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire:

I strongly urge the committee to support SB 80. It's long past time to hold some of the most egregious violators of water quality and environmental issues to task, and to protect people in some of Oregon's most vulnerable communities.

The companies who run concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are a classic example of a parasite on our communities – the benefits and profits accrue to a headquarters located far away from the CAFO itself (and possible to a select few in the community), while the community at large suffers the devastating environmental consequences, health impacts, and general nuisance and disruption of a CAFO operating in their county.

These companies have long demonstrated their disdain to protecting the quality of water and health in the communities where they operate, and are more than content to continue violating local regulations, or even capture the regulators themselves. Furthermore, given some recent actions taken by the current federal administration we cannot rely on regulators, even in the best of cases, to hold these companies responsible.

While on the other side of the country, the tale told in Corban Addison's *Wastelands* is emblematic throughout the industry. Companies will take slaps on the wrist as they take advantage of farmers and their communities, and it's only when communities fight back and regulators hold them accountable.

This bill is a step, and an important one! I urge the committee to please support SB 80.