

Submitter: Roger Knudson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB80

SB 80 is a critical step to prevent the public health crisis in Oregon's Groundwater Management Areas (GWMAs) from worsening. This bill applies to areas where the State has found nitrate concentrations exceed public drinking water standards, including parts of Lane County. This bill is needed to protect the public health. According to Oregon State University, "Scientific studies have found nitrate to be associated with methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome), diabetes, negative reproductive outcomes, and various forms of cancer." <https://wellwater.oregonstate.edu/swvgwma> For over three decades, Oregon has failed to take meaningful action to address the sources of pollution in the state's groundwater management areas. State legislators need to do more to make sure regulatory agencies take action to hold polluters accountable and stop new sources of pollution from exacerbating this crisis. Wells within one kilometer of CAFOs have vastly higher mean nitrate levels than those not near a CAFO. We must do what we can to control this problem and not make it worse. In addition to polluting drinking water, factory farms and their manure lagoons emit toxic air pollutants including ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and particulate matter, all of which can lead to adverse health problems.

I strongly support SB 80.