

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

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Claire Gates

Re: Support for SB 80- to stop new or expanding large CAFOs in GWMA's

Dear Chair Golden, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Claire Gates, and I live in Portland, Oregon.

I am writing to you today in support of SB 80. We must take action to halt the expansion of factory farming, defined by the Oregon Department of Agriculture as large CAFOs, in our state's groundwater management areas until contamination is brought down to safe levels. Below are just a few of the many reasons that taking action on this bill is critical:

1. Nitrate from fertilizers and manure pollutes groundwater and threatens the health of those who drink it.
2. Preventing any new or expanding large CAFO would prevent new sources of pollution in GWMA's which would give state regulatory agencies the time they need to address existing sources of pollution.
3. Factory farms fuel climate change by releasing harmful and dangerous greenhouse gas emissions such as methane and nitrous oxide.
4. One ton of manure from large dairy farms produces more than twice as many greenhouse gas emissions as one ton of manure from small dairy farms due to manure management practices.
5. Factory farms concentrate profits to large corporations, driving small to mid-sized farms out of business by consolidating land and resources by reducing competition.

I urge you to vote for SB 80 to protect our precious water resources, communities, farm workers, and the air we breathe

Thank you,
Claire Gates