

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

Nitrates entering groundwater is a known cause of harm. Chronic exposure to nitrates in groundwater (water used by humans for drinking, bathing, cooking, etc.) has been linked to a myriad of health conditions such as reproductive issues, some cancers, and a condition called blue baby syndrome. Industrialized animal agriculture is one of the biggest polluters when it comes to nitrates due to their poor waste management practices. Factory farms “manage” their waste by storing it in open-pit cesspools that the industry refers to as “manure lagoons” or by spreading it on nearby fields as “organic fertilizer.” Due to the massive amount of waste produced by the extreme confinement of animals, this waste inevitably seeps into our groundwater and ends up at dangerously high levels in our drinking water as well as nearby rivers and streams.

To put it simply: there is no healthy, sustainable way to manage the exorbitant amount of waste produced by this industry. CAFOs are a bad idea on so many levels, but especially on this most basic one of groundwater safety, and we shouldn't be encouraging or allowing their placement in Oregon.