

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

Please support SB 80. I'm very concerned about factory farms polluting the groundwater. Manure in runoff pollutes with nitrates that cause serious health problems. Why are we valuing corporate profits over public health?

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

We can no longer rely on intervention from the federal EPA to address this crisis, so our state elected officials need to do more to prevent pollution from contaminating our drinking water.

Despite the Lower Umatilla Basin being designated a GWMA in 1990, regulatory agencies approved several permits allowing the creation and expansion of large CAFOs in the region, including two which have grown to become Oregon's largest mega-dairy and beef feedlot, collectively permitted to confine over 160,000 cows. While this bill would not result in any changes to these existing facilities, it would stop ODA from issuing any future large CAFO permits until the groundwater crisis is addressed.

In spite of public health and environmental concerns in the Lower Umatilla GWMA, ODA persisted in its approval for permitting the disastrous Lost Valley Mega-Dairy, a large tier 2 CAFO, in 2017. As expected, Lost Valley eventually racked up over 200 environmental violations furthering the crisis in the Lower Umatilla Basin.

Governor Kotek's recent Executive Order which allows the Port of Morrow to violate its wastewater permit without even paying a fine, shows that once polluters get started, existing regulations aren't enough to protect communities. We need to prevent additional sources of pollution from moving into GWMA's in the first place.