

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

27 March 2025

TO: Senate Natural Resources Committee
From: Susan Reep
Re: Support for SB 80- to stop new or expanding large CAFOs in GWMA's

Dear Chairman Golden and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Susan Reep and I live in Wilsonville Oregon. I'm writing in support of SB80 and why it's crucial that we stop the expansion of factory farms, defined as large CAFOs by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, until we get serious contamination of our state's groundwater management areas under control.

I could write pages and pages why this is important but you have no doubt read it all - how the nitrate pollution in the groundwater is getting worse and not just threatening the health of those who drink it in spite of mitigating factors that were supposed to help, but causing horrible problems including blue baby syndrome; how factory farm air pollution causes everything from asthma to premature deaths and accelerates climate change; how small farms have been driven out of business, which is well documented, and how property values have been driven down for those living close to the CAFOs - usually those in the Hispanic population who are also those who work in often unsafe and dangerous conditions, exposed to chemicals that cause illness.

What we don't talk about or think about is how this affects every single citizen in Oregon - me and my family, you and your families, even those living far away from the three groundwater management areas by driving up health care costs and stressing the system. Pollutants don't stay from where they emanate - they drift, and pollutants from manure ponds of tens of thousands of cows, particulate matter from CAFOs have to go somewhere. We can expect a lot less help from the Feds so this, if left without our attention, will end up costing the people of Oregon far more money, resources, health dollars, and probably higher taxes. And then there's the fact that it's just wrong. And I haven't mentioned the treatment of animals.

I urge you to take action, pass SB80, and protect our water resources.

Sincerely,

Susan Reep