

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

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

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. This issue is important to me because I care about protecting the environment and the compassionate treatment of animals. I also care because my home's water supply comes from a well, and it has heightened my awareness and concern for groundwater issues in Oregon.

I am concerned that nitrate from fertilizers and manure pollutes groundwater and threatens the health of those who drink it. 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. Since we can no longer rely on intervention from the federal EPA to address this crisis, our state elected officials need to do more to prevent pollution from contaminating our drinking water.

Factory farms fuel climate chaos by releasing harmful and dangerous greenhouse gas emissions such as methane and nitrous oxide. Large CAFOs rely on unsustainable agricultural practices which produce massive amounts of manure, along with significant methane, ammonia, and nitrous oxide emissions.

Oregon has progressive, humane values. Yet farmed animals, especially in industrial-scale settings, still suffer immensely as they spend their lives in overcrowded and unsanitary confinement. I'm vegan because I don't want to contribute to this horrific suffering.

I urge you to vote for SB 80. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dianne Ensign
Portland, OR

