

Submitter: David Sweet

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB80

For over three decades, Oregon has failed to take meaningful action to address the sources of pollution in the state's three GWMA's, particularly the Lower Umatilla Basin.

CAFOs, also known as factory farms, are a major source of nitrate contamination in these areas due to the excessive amounts of manure that they produce — manure that is largely untreated.

Drinking nitrate-laden water can cause severe health problems, particularly in women and infants, such as certain types of cancers, blue baby syndrome, thyroid issues, and other adverse health effects.

The large quantities of pollution concentrated on factory farms release airborne particulate matter linked to asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory diseases — nationwide, factory farm air pollution is responsible for more than 12,000 premature deaths every year.

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.

Sincerely,

David Sweet