

Submitter: David Ewing
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,

My name is David Ewing, and I live in Bend, Oregon.

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. Nitrate contamination in the LUBGWMA continues to get worse in spite of being designated a GWMA 35 years ago. We need mandatory reductions in pollution and to prevent new sources of pollution, including factory farms, from being built in GWMA's in the first place.

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. 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. Well tests in GWMA's show nitrate levels more than 11 times the EPA limit for safe consumption.

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. This is a commonsense bill. How could you not say yes to a bill that puts the health of Oregonians first and foremost over the inaction of State regulators and an industry (Remember Lost Valley) that puts profit over public health? Say yes to SB 80...

Thank you,

David Ewing
Bend, OR.