

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

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife:

I write to support SB 80. By prohibiting DEQ from issuing a water quality permit to certain CAFOs located in a groundwater management area, it would at least put some limits on one aspect of CAFOs' moral and environmental pollution.

CAFOs are hugely cruel to animals, who are confined in awful conditions.

CAFOs, because they must use antibiotics from preventing their "products" from spreading disease in confined quarters, contribute to antibiotic resistance in humans.

CAFOs fuel climate change with outsized methane and nitrous oxide discharge.

CAFOs engage in unsustainable farming practices as compared to managed, regenerative farming from small farms.

CAFOs put small farms out of business.

CAFOs are an example of an industry that has "regulatory capture," where the industry essentially governs itself. Regulatory capture prevents checks-and-balances from inhibiting amoral and injurious behavior, instead focusing on narrow financial interests of the industry.

CAFOs are an example of institutionalized evil that has been normalized. As seen from the perspective of the suffering animals, the environment, and many affected people, CAFOs are pure evil. At great scale, they murder sentient creatures and pollute, and all so a very few people can make a lot of money. They will not stop unless checked because their mission, fundamentally, at its core, is amoral. I think 100 years from now, people will look back and think, "how could we have done this? How could we have allowed this?" Oregon has progressive values, and it seems inevitable that those values will, over time, lessen demand for CAFOs' "product." So assuming we evolve ethically and morally, which I hope we will, they will be going out of business anyway; relegated to a relic of a violent, inequitable, non-inclusive past.

I ask this committee to support SB 80. Thank you.

Betsy Wosko
Lake Oswego, OR