

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

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of SB 80, a bill to halt new or expanding factory farms in Oregon's Groundwater Management Areas. This bill is a vital step to bringing our groundwater back to safe levels of nitrates, thereby improving the health of residents in those areas. The health risks associated with the current high levels of nitrates are well-established, and you can see evidence in the contaminated communities of not only elevated cancer cases, but birth defects, miscarriages, respiratory diseases and more.

Another compelling reason to vote YES on SB 80 is to prevent our total loss of family-owned farms. As we cede control of our food supply to huge corporations, we have to ask ourselves if the trade-offs are worth it. Decreased property values due to pollution and landscape degradation, increased emissions that drive climate change, increased risk of new pandemics, and decreased food security. Smaller, family-owned farms create the opposite scenario.

Are we FOR small business, better health, and food security? Or are we for big business swooping in and continuing to ravage our beautiful state? I urge you to vote YES on SB 80.