

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

Hello,

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.

Animal Welfare

- * 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.
- * Unlike industrial practices used by large CAFOs, small and mid-sized farms prioritize higher welfare standards, such as access to pasture and the space to carry out natural behaviors.
- * Chickens are confined along with their ammonia-filled litter, which leads to ulcerated feet, feather loss, blisters, tumors, osteoporosis, and more.

Climate

- * Factory farms fuel climate change by releasing harmful and dangerous greenhouse gas emissions such as methane and nitrous oxide.
- * One ton of manure from large dairy farms produces more than twice as many greenhouse gas emissions as one ton of manure from small dairy farms due to manure management practices.
- * Large CAFOs rely on unsustainable agricultural practices which produce massive amounts of manure, along with significant methane, ammonia, and nitrous oxide emissions. Shifting to regenerative, sustainable practices would create a resilient food system that prioritizes the health of our environment and our communities.

Rural Communities and Small Farms

- * Small and mid-sized family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities.
- * Factory farms concentrate profits to large corporations, driving small to mid-sized farms out of business by consolidating land and resources by reducing competition.
- * Living near a large CAFO can drive down property values and make it difficult to sell your home.
- * Factory farms externalize costs and force taxpayers to take on the

burden of pollution clean-up and the cost of healthcare due to contaminated water.

I urge you to vote for SB 80 to protect our precious animals and water resources!