

April 2, 2025

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Miranda Herreid

Re: Support for SB 80- to stop new or expanding large CAFOs in GWMA's

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Miranda Herreid, and I live in Portland. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for SB 80. This is our chance to take a stand against the increasing encroachment of factory farming in our beautiful state and improve water conditions in groundwater management areas.

The Oregon community is a unique one, as we are bound by our love for the natural environment. Our waterways are treasured resources, and we must do all we can to protect them for generations to come. Despite the Lower Umatilla Basin's designation as a groundwater management area in 1990, factory farms have increasingly proliferated in this region. Not only has this prevented state regulatory agencies from addressing existing sources of pollution, but it has also intensified nitrate contamination in our water and decimated the livelihoods and health of small family farms. This has led to the devastation of local community resilience and the increasing industrialization of our food system, along with poisoning residents' drinking water. Well tests in groundwater management areas reveal nitrate levels that are over eleven times greater than EPA's limit for safe consumption. For many residents, this is their primary source of drinking water. These Oregonians are exposed to severe health problems, such as cancers, thyroid issues, and a higher chance of pregnancy complications.

I believe in our state's commitment to a healthy environment, as embodied in our ambitious climate goals. Furthermore, Oregon has voiced its goal of working towards environmental justice. At a time when there is no federal support for environmental well-being, and when environmental justice is taboo, it is imperative that states pick up the slack. We must set an example, inspiring other states to address existing water pollution from factory farms. SB 80 also sends a signal to industry bigwigs that we will no longer allow them to externalize the costs of pollution cleanup and healthcare onto the communities they invade. Oregon's largest dairy factory farms are located in rural Latine communities—this is not a mistake. Rather, this is an intentional design meant to further burden vulnerable communities who lack the resources to fight back. SB 80 gives Oregon a chance to live up to its ideals of climate health and environmental justice. Actions speak louder than words.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I implore you to vote for SB 80 to protect our communities and resources!

Sincerely,

Miranda Herreid