Submitter: Abigale Mortensen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and

Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or

Topic:

SB80

I have grown up in Oregon and hope to stay here for a long time. My grandfather lived in one of the groundwater management areas until his death. I want elected officials to use their power to protect Oregonian's health, property, and small farm businesses.

I love Oregon and want to see it thrive, but industrial-scale concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) threaten its health, environment, and communities. I believe our high-quality natural water is something we must protect. CAFOs create increased nitrate pollution from fertilizers and manure contaminates groundwater, putting Oregonians at risk—especially women and infants, who face increased dangers of certain cancers, blue baby syndrome, thyroid disorders, and other serious health issues. These factory farms also hurt Oregonian small farms by consolidating land and resources, pushing family-owned operations out of business while funneling profits to massive corporations, many of which aren't even based in our state. Meanwhile, Oregonian homeowners suffer as well, as living near a CAFO can lower property values and make it harder to sell a home. Oregon deserves better than this exploitation—we must protect our land, water, and communities from the harm caused by corporate factory farms.