

Submitter: Jeremy Beckham
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB80

I am a resident of Lake Oswego and a current law student at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Industrial animal agriculture is disastrous for local communities, for the environment, and for the animals. The state of Oregon, which has a responsibility to look out for the interests of all Oregonians, should seek out any opportunity it can to mitigate or put the brakes on this destructive practice. I moved to Oregon from Utah where I saw firsthand the consequences of a state blindly pursuing a "right to farm" agenda that exempts factory farms from environmental, public health, and land use restrictions. Large swaths of Utah have been made undesirable places to live because of enormous pig factory farms. The local and tribal communities tried to stand up to big ag but the state legislature pre-empted these sensible local regulations.

One such harmful impact of animal agriculture is groundwater contamination. CAFO's threaten the safety and purity of our groundwater because of nitrates from fertilizer and manure. SB 80 is a common sense measure to help protect our most sensitive ground water management area from this harmful pollution.

During this time of ubiquitous dismantling of our federal regulatory systems, including the EPA, it is especially important for state governments to step up and lead the way. I support Oregon taking more meaningful measures to mitigate the harmful effects of factory farming to protect the environment and public health. SB 80 is an exemplar of such a reasonable measure.

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