

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

4/2/2025

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Patrick Heavey

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

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

My name is Patrick Heavey , and I live in Portland.

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.

Factory farms pose a substantial threat to public health. The pollution caused by factory farming is unacceptably dangerous, producing airborne chemicals which can cause asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory illnesses. The study "Air quality-related health damages of food" published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that over 12,000 premature deaths per year are caused by factory farm pollution. I believe it is imperative that we not add to this total with the lives of Oregon residents.

Furthermore, factory farms produce nitrate contamination which can severely affect the safety of Oregon's water. A myriad of health problems, including cancer, can be caused by nitrate-laden water, and such concerns most often arise in children. Like breathable air, drinkable water is an absolute necessity of survival which must never be tampered with in the pursuit of more efficient production. The underprivileged children of Oregon who rely on on public water must be protected from the cancerous externalities of factory farms.

Finally, in addition to the danger exposed to the entire Oregon community, factory farms pose particularly intense risks to their workers. Factory farm employees are forced to work closely with the aforementioned pollution, chemicals, and fumes produced by factory farms. Oregonians simply seeking to earn a livelihood should not have their lives endangered on a daily basis. Instead, the expansion of factory farms must be halted, for the good of not just Oregon's low-wage workers, but all

Oregon residents.