

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

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

My name is Kyle Sporrer, and I am currently attending Lewis and Clark Law School and living in Portland, OR.

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.

There are extensive public health and environmental concerns associated with CAFOs which we can reduce by prohibiting more of them from being established in critical areas.

I have worked on several different factory farms and know that they entail dangerous working conditions. Factory farms come with a cost to our society in both the cost of treating the acute injuries of the workers and the long-term chronic health conditions associated with the dangerous exposures associated with concentrated farming that workers face. When I was pursuing a Masters in Public Health in Corvallis, I learned about the health costs associated with labor and exposures like this and it would save our state a money in health care costs and reduce the burden on our health systems if we reduced these kinds of jobs in our state.

I have also seen in my work that animals suffer tremendously on these farms. 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. We should build a more just food system, not pave the way for more cruelty.

I have often lived near factory farms and can attest that it is none too pleasant. The screams of pigs can carry miles from farms. Oregon is a great place to live and we should prioritize keeping it pleasant. Likewise, our state is blessed with natural resources which we should avoid spoiling with animal agriculture that disproportionately take up and spoil large amounts of land and water. We have a lot of clean water which would be jeopardized as runoff leeches into waterways from factory farms. Drinking nitrate-laden water can cause severe health problems, particularly in women and infants, such as certain types of cancers, blue baby syndrome, thyroid issues, and other adverse health effects.

I urge you to vote for SB 80 to protect our precious water resources!  
Sincerely,  
Kyle Sporrer