

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

April 2, 2025

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Camille Bond

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 Camille Bond, and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to express my support for SB 80, which would freeze the expansion of factory farming — or raising animals in concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) — until contamination in groundwater management areas is reduced to safe levels.

I moved to Oregon in 2023 and was astounded by the state's wealth of natural resources, which support human health and industry. CAFOs generate water and air pollution, including greenhouse gases, that threaten these interests.

CAFOs generate huge volumes of manure. This manure, along with other fertilizers, is contaminating Oregon's groundwater resources with nitrate. Well tests in Oregon's groundwater management areas have detected nitrate at more than eleven times the EPA's limit for safe consumption. This contamination is a public health concern, as nitrate in drinking water can cause cancers, blue baby syndrome, and other severe health problems.

CAFOs also pollute the air we breathe, releasing particulate matter that can cause respiratory diseases. Further, CAFOs generate greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change, contributing to heat-related illnesses and other health issues.

In addition to these human health impacts, the CAFO system threatens other sectors of Oregon's economy. Our state's economy relies on the stability of the climate, the health of natural ecosystems, and the ability of a diverse range of species to thrive. CAFOs contribute to climate change, harm natural ecosystems through water pollution, and imperil wildlife in many ways. For example, CAFOs serve as a breeding ground for zoonotic disease, which can then transfer to and kill wild species. The CAFO system also drives the conversion of wild habitats to agricultural land (including land used to grow feed for animals raised in CAFOs); habitat conversion is the primary cause of species extinctions today.

Oregon's fisheries, small and mid-sized farms, vineyards, and tourism businesses all depend on the stability of the environment and health of wild species in obvious ways. But many more businesses depend on these factors in less easily-visible ways. Any business that relies on outdoor, human workers will suffer from lost productivity as average temperatures rise and heatwaves intensify.

SB 80 presents an opportunity to pause the development of CAFOs for long enough to get one of these issues — groundwater contamination — in check. The bill also has significant co-benefits in terms of reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Further, passing SB 80 would send a signal to all Oregonians that our health and the health of our businesses is important enough to merit standing up against the large corporate interests associated with CAFOs.

The Senate Natural Resources Committee must not continue to allow the development of an industry that recklessly endangers human health, depletes our shared natural resources, and contributes heavily to climate change and biodiversity collapse.

I urge you to vote for SB 80 to protect Oregonians' health and businesses, and to continue to explore solutions to make our state's agricultural sector more rational and more humane.

Warmly,
Camille Bond