

Submitter: Andrew Simrin
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,

We have been made aware of a lot of news lately around the cost of eggs and other animal product commodities related to disease and illnesses among chickens and livestock at large CAFOs that produce eggs. CAFO animal populations are much more likely to be affected by illness at scale with these factors, compared to the less affected small to mid sized family farm populations. We see that the price of pasture raised and organic eggs are not as impacted by these bird flu outbreaks and other factors, partly because these small-mid operations raise the animals and care for the land in a more sustainable and humane manner.

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.

Nitrate contamination

Nitrate from fertilizers and manure pollutes groundwater and threatens the health of those who drink it.

Nitrate contamination in the LUBGWMA continues to get worse in spite of being designated a GWMA 35 years ago. We need mandatory reductions in pollution and to prevent new sources of pollution, including factory farms, from being built in GWMA's in the first place.

Small and mid-sized family farms enhance rural economic stability and provide the basis for thriving and vibrant rural communities.

Factory farms concentrate profits to large corporations, driving small to mid-sized farms out of business by consolidating land and resources by reducing competition. Living near a large CAFO can drive down property values and make it difficult to sell your home.

Factory farms externalize costs and force taxpayers to take on the burden of pollution clean-up and the cost of healthcare due to contaminated water.

I urge you to vote for SB 80 to protect our precious water resources and improve community and animal welfare.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.