

Submitter: Mary Weeks
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: Mary Weeks

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 Mary Weeks and I live 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.

Frankly it is frustrating that citizens need to submit testimony to pressure electeds to protect us and the environment. The significant risks of nitrates to human health and the environment are well-established through research. Well tests in GWMA show nitrate levels more than 11 times the EPA limit for safe consumption. In addition, airborne particulate matter released from factory farm pollution affects respiratory health and, nation-wide, that pollution is responsible for more than 12,000 premature deaths every year.

We can no longer rely on intervention from the federal EPA to address this crisis, so our state elected officials need to do more to prevent pollution from contaminating our drinking water and air. I urge you vote for SB80 to protect your constituents and our water resources.

Sincerely,
Mary Weeks