



CLEAN WATER. HEALTHY RIVERS.

April 3, 2025

To: Chair Golden, Vice-chair Nash, and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Kelly Campbell and I am the policy director at Columbia Riverkeeper. Columbia Riverkeeper is a non-profit organization with a mission to restore and protect the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. Columbia Riverkeeper has over 25,000 supporters and members in Oregon.

Columbia Riverkeeper supports SB 80 which would prohibit new and expanded large confined animal feeding operations (CAFOS) in our state's groundwater management areas (GWMAs). These are places where groundwater contamination is already a widespread problem. Simply put: this bill is about not adding fuel to an already burning fire.

All three existing GWMAs in Oregon have nitrate pollution problems. We know that CAFOS, are major contributors to this pollution through fertilizers and manure.

Well tests in GWMAs show nitrate levels more than 11 times the EPA limit for safe consumption. Nitrate can cause serious health problems like Blue Baby Syndrome, gastrointestinal cancers, thyroid problems, birth defects, and more.

We know that in the Lower Umatilla Basin GWMA (LUBGWMA) that borders the Columbia River, nitrate contamination continues to get worse in spite of being designated a GWMA 35 years ago. Voluntary measures alone are not working. We need to prevent new sources of pollution, including new or expanded factory farms, from being built in GWMAs as a common sense measure to not make the problem worse.

On a personal note, I went to college in Iowa in a town where the water was so polluted with nitrates from industrial agriculture, that vulnerable populations were advised to not drink the municipal water at certain times of the year. As a college student on a budget, I remember having

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to consider whether I could afford to buy bottled water, or take chances with my own health by drinking and cooking with what came out of the tap.

We in Oregon can and must do better. I urge you to pass SB 80 to protect our water quality, and the health of our rural population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Campbell". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kelly Campbell, Policy Director