

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

Date April 3, 2025

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Camille Hall

Re: Support for SB 80- to stop new or expanding large CAFOs in GWMA's

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

My name is Camille Hall and I live in the mid-Willamette valley.

I support SB 80, which would prevent siting of new or expanded large confined-animal-feeding- operations (CAFO) in Ground Water Management Areas (GWMAs). We recently fought this battle in Linn County regarding runoff from large poultry CAFO near essential water sources in the Willamette Valley.

Clean ground water is essential for a clean water supply, whether for drinking, irrigating crops or supporting aquatic wildlife. Once contaminated, ground water sinks uncontrollably, pulled by gravity and following convoluted layers of rock and soil to pollute lower points in the watershed. We have no effective way to remove pollutants from ground water.

Especially of concern are nitrate levels in the Lower Umatilla GWMA, which despite being monitored and regulated for the past 35 years, continues to worsen. Well tests in this GWMA show nitrate levels more than 11 times the EPA limit for safe consumption. Nitrate from fertilizers and manure pollutes groundwater and threatens the health of those who drink it. We must stop the addition of new nitrate pollutants to these ground water resources until we can find ways to prevent ground water contamination.

SB 80 does not affect existing CAFOs and would only prevent the creation of new sources of pollution in GWMAs, giving farmers and state regulators time to address existing sources of pollution.

I urge you to support SB 80 and bring it to a vote on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,  
Camille Hall

