

Submitter: Harold Treinen
On Behalf Of: Food and Water Watch
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB80

Date Apr 3, 2025

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Harold Treinen

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 ___ Harold Treinen __, and I live in SE 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.

My family and every communities sustainability in health requires positive action to control or eliminate threats to quality of life locally and on the planet. My grandchildren must have their life's goal achievable and not encounter risks to it. It's the duty of our legislature to do right for everyone today and the future. I have family running family farms and they do want the same opportunity as they work to provide truth, care, and long term betterment of the environment for safe living conditions. It's time to get it done for the people.

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 in the first place.
- Well tests in GWMA show nitrate levels more than 11 times the EPA limit for safe consumption.

Public Health

- Drinking nitrate-laden water can cause severe health problems, particularly in women and infants, such as certain types of cancers, blue baby syndrome, thyroid issues, and other adverse health effects.
- The large quantities of pollution concentrated on factory farms release airborne particulate matter linked to asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases

— nationwide, factory farm air pollution is responsible for more than 12,000 premature deaths every year.

Current Regulatory Failure

- Preventing any new or expanding large CAFO would prevent new sources of pollution in GWMA's which would give state regulatory agencies the time they need to address existing sources of pollution
- 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.
- Despite the Lower Umatilla Basin being designated a GWMA in 1990, regulatory agencies approved several permits allowing the creation and expansion of large CAFOs in the region, including two which have grown to become Oregon's largest mega-dairy and beef feedlot, collectively permitted to confine over 160,000 cows. While this bill would not result in any changes to these existing facilities, it would stop ODA from issuing any future large CAFO permits until the groundwater crisis is addressed.
- In spite of public health and environmental concerns in the Lower Umatilla GWMA, ODA persisted in its approval for permitting the disastrous Lost Valley Mega-Dairy, a large tier 2 CAFO, in 2017. As expected, Lost Valley eventually racked up over 200 environmental violations furthering the crisis in the Lower Umatilla Basin.
- Governor Kotek's recent Executive Order which allows the Port of Morrow to violate its wastewater permit without even paying a fine, shows that once polluters get started, existing regulations aren't enough to protect communities. We need to prevent additional sources of pollution from moving into GWMA's in the first place.

Climate

- Factory farms fuel climate change by releasing harmful and dangerous greenhouse gas emissions such as methane and nitrous oxide.
- One ton of manure from large dairy farms produces more than twice as many greenhouse gas emissions as one ton of manure from small dairy farms due to manure management practices.
- Large