

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife,

It was beyond disappointing to hear Senator Golden report at the end of the SB 80 public hearing that this bill won't go any further this year, despite overwhelming testimony supporting it.

It is so frustrating to think about the millions of dollars that go into the budgets of the state agencies responsible for monitoring water pollution and taking action when it's discovered, and then think about **30 years of INACTION** on the groundwater pollution in GWMA's. During these 30 years of inaction, pollution levels have increased and there is still no real plan in place to change course, only the "concept of a plan." Where have I heard that one before?

Yes, of course, we need farms. But it's long past time to stop excusing farmers from polluting, just because we all like milk, hamburgers, eggs and sausage. It **IS** possible to produce food without polluting the neighboring community's groundwater. But it's easier and cheaper to just keep polluting and then lobby our legislators to give them just a little more time to **voluntarily** clean up their act.

As I listened to the testimony for this bill, I kept hearing the same untrue argument from opponents: "This bill would hurt farmers." NO. This bill only prohibits NEW large CAFOs or ENLARGEMENTS to existing CAFOs from being built in GWMA's area where the pollution is already very high. It does nothing to existing farms in GWMA's. The only conclusion I could come to is that farmers just don't want to be restricted from doing whatever they damn well please on "their land," **regardless of the harm it causes others on their land or the harm it causes future generations.**

This is a perfect example of why we NEED to have the Right to a Healthy Environment (SJR28) in Oregon's constitution. The People need to be able to take action to protect our environment when our government fails us.

Disappointed in The Dalles,

Debi Ferrer