

Submitter: Delores Porch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

According to an article in The Statesman Journal in 3/22/18 the now defunct Lost Valley mega dairy used 1 million gallons of water per day.

According to a 2015 USGS report livestock in Oregon used 11-50 million gallons of water per day. Sixty-two percent of that water was withdrawn from groundwater.

Does the state keep track of this? Of course not.

Water rights are grandfathered when a new owner buys a previous owner's land. Is there a law that the same amount of water can only be used that the previous owner used? Of course not. The new owner gets to use up to the original permit limit. Does the state keep track of this? Of course not.

According to an Oregonian expose, pumping limits of underground water are on the honor system. The state has no means to enforce the limits, nor do the agencies who would enforce these limits have the money to study just how much water is left in the aquifers. Water is just given away in this state without knowing how much is left.

Oregon has had quite a few years of drought, serious drought, especially in the driest portion of the state. This is only one big reason why we need a total moratorium, not just a poultry CAFO moratorium.

If the Legislature is not ready to say we must take a pause and find out the status of how much water there is to use, then when the proverbial manure hits the fan we all know who to blame.