

Date 4/2/25

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee

From: Henry Sollitt

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 Henry and I am a law student at Lewis & Clark Law school in Portland, Oregon.

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.

While moving to Oregon to attend law school, I traveled the I-84 corridor through Eastern Oregon. I was floored by the beauty of Eastern Oregon's vast landscapes, but I was shocked by the impact of the large CAFO's I encountered on my drive. Even in the vastness of the Oregon landscape, the impact of those CAFO operations was noticeable for miles. That impact both that which is observable, and that which insidiously spreads in our surface and ground water, is something that we should all be concerned about. Furthermore, it is something this bill valiantly works to address.

I fear for the public health of residents near CAFOs. 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's in the first place. Well tests in GWMA's show nitrate levels more than 11 times the EPA limit for safe consumption. Additionally, 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](#). The airborne effects of those CAFO's was noticeable to me in a vehicle traveling at highway speeds for miles of my drive through the state this summer.

Please, I urge you to vote for SB 80 to protect our precious water resources!

Sincerely,
Henry Sollitt