

Submitter: Abigail Harper
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB80

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

My name is Abigail Harper, and I live in Portland, Oregon.

I am writing in support of SB 80. There is limited things we can do to oppose the ever-growing presence and reliance on the big ag industry. These companies that build one CAFO after another, contributing to the horrors of factory farming, do not operate with any care about local communities, ecosystems, animals, etc. In a place already threatened by concerning levels of contaminants in the groundwater, allowing another CAFO to be built here would be devastating for public health and environmental concerns.

I care about stopping the expansion of factory farms for numerous reasons, some that hit home for legislators and representatives more than others (such as animal welfare concerns inside of CAFOs). Time and time again, concerns for animal welfare--even with Oregon's progressive, humane values--have proven to be a reason that does not resonate with those in the government. However, the negative effects that impact human populations and the surrounding environments they live in, which can lead to extreme public health concerns, are at the forefront of a local and state governments' responsibility to their constituents. I focus on public health and climate change concerns as critical reasons why SB 80 must be passed.

First, 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. Also, 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. Not to mention, one of the demographics most affected by airborne particulates leading to asthma are the local children who just want to play on the playground, run around in their yard, or bike with their friends without having to fear the air they breathe.

Second, we know climate change is happening, no one can or should deny that -- especially those in power and with influence. These factory farms directly contribute to climate change, like emitting immense amounts of harmful and dangerous greenhouse gases into the air. For example, 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.

There are so many reasons why SB 80 should and must be passed. But, the two highlighted above are two that are crucial in protecting those that live in this community, and those that come after.

I urge you to vote for SB 80 to protect precious water resources, actually advocate for local constituents and Oregonians, and help get a win for environmental and social welfare issues in a political climate that needs it now more than ever.

Sincerely,
Abigail Harper