

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for SB 80. The bill will protect vital groundwater resources in Oregon from agricultural pollutants, which currently pose a threat to water quality.

According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, as many as 70 percent of Oregonians rely on groundwater for drinking water. Groundwater management areas are already threatened by elevated concentrations of contaminants, so protecting them from further pollution is of great importance. Confined animal feeding operations produce substantial amounts of waste, including excess nutrients, pharmaceuticals, and microbial pathogens. These pollutants can pose threats to human health, as well as nearby ecosystems. At present, confined animal feeding operations located in groundwater management areas can discharge their wastes, thereby polluting groundwater, as long as the entities have NPDES or WPCF permits. These permits are not sufficiently protective to prevent contamination of groundwater resources. Therefore, in order to safeguard Oregon's groundwater from harmful pollutants, I believe SB 80 must be passed.