

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee
From: Anabelle Dunn
Re: Support for SB 80 - to stop new or expanding large CAFOs in GWMA

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

My name is Anabelle Dunn, and I live in Tigard, Oregon. I am a 1L 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—which are referred to as such because of the significant level of contamination present.

I care deeply about this issue because the expansion of businesses should not come at the cost of compromising public health. Businesses should not be allowed to expand when the practices those businesses employ evidently harm communities in significant, pointed ways. It is imperative to revitalize groundwater management areas and restore them properly instead of allowing CAFOs, which are known to bring extreme pollutants with them, to eliminate the possibility that progress will be made.

Factory farming operations and the activities associated with factory farming cause nitrate pollution in nearby bodies of water. Drinking nitrate-laden water causes severe health problems in humans, particularly in women and infants, such as certain types of cancers, blue baby syndrome, thyroid issues, and other adverse health effects. Not only is water polluted by factory farming, air quality is also compromised. 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 above information has been clearly demonstrated, but continually goes unacknowledged by legislators across the country who prioritize business expansion over people's lives. If CAFOs are allowed to expand and are not blocked by initiatives like SB 80, preventable illnesses and death will occur. By embracing SB 80, you can demonstrate the critical values of protecting Oregon's natural resources and preserving public health. To oppose SB 80 is to allow businesses to continue growing their profits at the expense of the ecosystems Oregonians rely on. Oregonians should not be subjected to contaminated drinking water and preventable illnesses that they need to manage over their lifetimes to protect the so-called "right" of CAFOs to grow as the harm they cause grows alongside them.

Thank you for your consideration. You have the power to prioritize the safety of Oregonians over the profits of CAFOs. It is my sincere hope that you understand the positive impact this initiative would have and act accordingly.

Sincerely,
Anabelle Dunn