

April 2, 2025

Senate Natural Resources Committee

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 Karen Harrington, and I live in West Linn. I am a member of Climate Reality Portland, Tualatin Riverkeepers, and Willamette Riverkeepers. I belong to these organizations, in part, because of their commitment to Oregon's environmental quality. I support SB 80 to protect Oregon's Ground Water Management Areas from new or expanded Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

CAFO's pollute the environment wherever they are located. This is especially a problem when those large-scale feeding operations are sited in GWMA's. Nitrate from fertilizers and manure pollutes groundwater and threatens the health of those who drink it. It also releases large quantities of airborne particulate matter linked to asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases. This is an Environmental Justice issue as these CAFO's tend to be in rural communities of color, impacting the water and air quality of these communities and surrounding smaller farms.

SB 80 will halt the progression of CAFOs in GWMA's, already a problem throughout Oregon. We also cannot ignore the larger issue of the harms created by CAFOs including animal welfare, the health of farm workers, the reduction in land values for property near these operations, and their historic lack of accountability for the pollution they cause.

I urge you to support SB 80 and protect Oregon's GWMA's. With the current climate in the federal EPA, it is up to states, especially those such as Oregon with a track record of caring for our precious natural resources, to manage those resources.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Karen Harrington