

Submitter: Laurie Dougherty

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB80

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Salem. I strongly support SB80 which Prohibits the Department of Environmental Quality from issuing a water quality permit to certain confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) located in a ground water management area.

CAFOs, also known as factory farms, produce and consolidate very large amounts of manure. This has harmful impacts on water, including groundwater, on air quality, and on climate. Nitrates seeping into groundwater can contaminate local wells. Drinking water from nitrate-polluted wells is a known factor in certain cancers, thyroid problems, and blue baby syndrome from insufficient oxygen in a baby's blood. Airborne particles from CAFOs can cause asthma attacks and other respiratory problems.

The large quantities of manure produced by CAFOs release methane and nitrous oxide which are powerful greenhouse gases contributing to climate change. Small farms are much more capable of managing manure in less harmful ways. Unfortunately, small farms which sustain rural communities, are being driven out by industrialized agriculture with profits going to corporations and distant investors. In addition to harming people and communities, factory farms are an inhumane way to treat animals.

Please vote Yes on SB80 with a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.