

Submitter: Adriana Voss-Andreae
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB80

To: Senate Natural Resources Committee
From: Dr. Adriana Voss-Andreae
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,

As a proud Oregonian, I am deeply concerned about the health of our environment, the safety of our water, and the well-being of our communities. That's why I strongly support SB 80 and urge you to vote in favor of this critical bill.

For too long, factory farms—massive CAFOs—have polluted our groundwater, releasing dangerous levels of nitrates and other contaminants into the water we depend on. In the Lower Umatilla Basin, nitrate levels have soared to more than 11 times the EPA's safety limit. Families, farmworkers, and entire communities are being forced to drink water that could make them sick—causing cancer, thyroid disease, and even life-threatening conditions in infants. This is unacceptable.

Despite decades of warnings, our state has continued to approve new and expanding CAFOs, worsening an already dire situation. The disastrous Lost Valley Mega-Dairy, which racked up over 200 environmental violations, should have been a wake-up call. Instead, we are still allowing factory farms to pollute without real accountability. The recent executive order allowing the Port of Morrow to violate wastewater permits without consequences proves that current regulations are failing us.

Beyond poisoning our water, factory farms are accelerating climate change, destroying rural economies, and subjecting animals to cruel, inhumane conditions. These operations prioritize corporate profits over people, small farms, and the land we love. Oregon is better than this.

SB 80 is a necessary step to protect what makes our state special. It will pause the expansion of large CAFOs in groundwater management areas until pollution is brought under control. This is not just about policy—it's about protecting Oregon's future.

I urge you to stand with your constituents, with science, and with common sense. Please vote YES on SB 80 to defend our water, our health, and our communities from further harm.

Sincerely,

Adriana Voss-Andreae, MD PhD