

Submitter: Kendra Kimbirauskas
On Behalf Of: Shimanek Bridge Farm
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB80

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kendra Kimbirauskas. My husband and I operate a ranch outside of Scio, where we raise beef cattle, goats, and hogs on about 70 acres.

As you may recall from last session, our community faced a proposed expansion of industrial chicken operations that would have seriously threatened our water —critical for both farming and drinking. Our ranch is located just north of the Southern Willamette Groundwater Management Area, and we pay close attention to what happens there, because impacts to one farming community ripple across us all.

We know nitrate levels in Groundwater Management Areas are rising, not falling. And we know industrial-scale livestock operations are a major contributor. Elevated nitrate levels threaten human health and the long-term viability of farming communities.

While we appreciate the Oregon Department of Agriculture's efforts to modernize CAFO regulations following the passage of SB 85 in 2023, more needs to be done to protect those living and farming in already-impaired groundwater areas. That's especially true as federal oversight will weaken under the current administration, leaving states with even greater responsibility to protect citizens.

I urge you to support SB 80. We should not permit new industrial-scale livestock operations in areas already suffering from pollution. Let's follow the precautionary principle and prevent further harm by limiting additional nutrient loading in these vulnerable regions.

Thank you.

Kendra Kimbirauskas
Shimanek Bridge Farm
Scio, Oregon