Whereas, an industrialized farm, also known as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), refers to a facility that keeps a large number of animals confined for more than 45 days in any 12-month period; and

Whereas, CAFOs are well-known sources of water and air pollution and are associated with numerous environmental and population health risks; and

Whereas, residing in proximity to CAFOs is associated with increased transmission of zoonotic pathogens, development of antibiotic resistance, and increased risk of respiratory disease, acute gastrointestinal illness, urinary tract infections, autoimmune disease, adverse birth outcomes, anemia, kidney disease, and cardiovascular mortality; and

Whereas, the adverse health effects of CAFOs tend to disproportionately affect communities of color, low-income communities, and rural communities; and

Whereas, pollution from CAFOs is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the 1972 Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act; and

Whereas, in 2019, the EPA signed an amendment stating CAFOs are exempt from the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), which are statutes requiring industries to report when high levels toxic chemicals are released into the environment; and

Whereas, in 2022, the EPA denied two petitions from groups asking it to revise its CAFO regulations and instead announced it will undertake a comprehensive evaluation of its guidelines and will incorporate feedback from stakeholders to inform its regulatory revisions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association recognize Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) as a public health hazard (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA encourage the Environmental Protection Agency and appropriate parties to remove the regulatory exemptions for CAFOs under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and tighten restrictions on pollution from CAFOs. (New HOD Policy)
Fiscal Note: Moderate - between $5,000 - $10,000

Received: 09/27/2023

REFERENCES


RELEVANT AMA POLICY

H-135.911 Environmental Health Equity in Federally Subsidized Housing

1. Our American Medical Association acknowledges the potential adverse health impacts of living in close proximity to Superfund sites or other contaminated lands.

2. Our AMA advocates for mandated disclosure of Superfund sites or other contaminated lands proximity to those purchasing, leasing, or currently residing in housing in close proximity to Superfund sites or other contaminated lands.
3. Our AMA supports efforts of public agencies to study the safety of proposed public housing expansions with respect to pollutant exposure and to expand construction of new public and publicly subsidized housing properties on lands without demonstrated unsafe levels of hazardous pollutants. [Res. 415, A-23]

H-135.998 AMA Position on Air Pollution
Our AMA urges that: (1) Maximum feasible reduction of all forms of air pollution, including particulates, gases, toxicants, irritants, smog formers, and other biologically and chemically active pollutants, should be sought by all responsible parties. (2) Community control programs should be implemented wherever air pollution produces widespread environmental effects or physiological responses, particularly if these are accompanied by a significant incidence of chronic respiratory diseases in the affected community. (3) Prevention programs should be implemented in areas where the above conditions can be predicted from population and industrial trends. (4) Governmental control programs should be implemented primarily at those local, regional, or state levels which have jurisdiction over the respective sources of air pollution and the population and areas immediately affected, and which possess the resources to bring about equitable and effective control. [BOT Rep. L, A-65; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. C, A-88; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-98; Reaffirmation I-06; Reaffirmed in lieu of Res. 509, A-09; Reaffirmation A-11; Reaffirmation A-12; Reaffirmation A-14; Reaffirmation A-16; Reaffirmed: BOT Rep. 29, A-19]

H-135.996 Pollution Control and Environmental Health
Our AMA supports (1) efforts to alert the American people to health hazards of environmental pollution and the need for research and control measures in this area, and (2) its present activities in pollution control and improvement of environmental health. [Sub. Res. 40, A-70; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. C, A-89; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, A-00; Modified: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-10; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 01, A-20]