



Washington State Legislature

June 1, 2016

Maia Bellon
Director
Washington State Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Director Bellon,

We write to urge you to continue moving toward adoption of a comprehensive NPDES clean water act permit that would cover all medium and large Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Washington State. We believe that this approach is necessary to protect surface waters and aquifers which are used for drinking water, while also ensuring a strong agricultural economy by providing clear guidance and limiting those few bad actors who undermine clean water resources in our state.

As you know, legislation was proposed during the 2016 legislative session (HB 2840 and SB 6568) which would have directed the Department to adopt a state discharge permit as an alternative to the NPDES CAFO permit. Tribes, conservation groups, and community groups raised serious concerns regarding both the transparency and the enforceability of a state discharge permit. We agree with these concerns. The bills failed to pass in both chambers, and we oppose any steps by the Department to move forward with a state-only discharge permit without explicit direction from the Legislature to do so.

We urge the Department to continue on its path to adopt an NPDES CAFO General Permit that governs both medium and large dairies in this state. This approach will allow: 1) Transparency, so the public can see relevant permit related data; and 2) Accountability, so that local communities have another option to protect their drinking water if the state is unable to enforce permit conditions. A state discharge permit would not meet these objectives.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and for all your work on behalf of the citizens of Washington State.



Representative Derek Stanford, PhD
1st Legislative District



Representative Mia Gregerson
33rd Legislative District



Representative Cindy Ryu
32nd Legislative District



Representative Kristine Lytton
40th Legislative District



Representative Roger Goodman
45th Legislative District



Representative Patty Kuderer
48th Legislative District



Senator Christine Rolfes
23rd Legislative District



Representative Luis Moscoso
1st Legislative District



Senator Karen Keiser
33rd Legislative District



Representative Joe Fitzgibbon
34th Legislative District



Representative Brady Walkinshaw
43rd Legislative District



Representative Jake Fey
27th Legislative District



Representative Steve Bergquist
11th Legislative District



Representative Gerry Pollet
46th Legislative District



Senator Marko Liias
21st Legislative District



Senator Pramila Jayapal
37th Legislative District



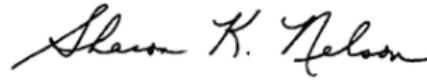
Senator Bob Hasegawa
11th Legislative District



Representative Sherry Appleton
23rd Legislative District



Representative Joan McBride
48th Legislative District



Senator Sharon Nelson
34th Legislative District



Representative Strom Peterson
21st Legislative District



Representative Jessyn Farrell
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Senator Annette Cleveland
49th Legislative District



Senator Jeannie Darneille
27th Legislative District



Representative Mike Sells
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