

From: ss.jensen57@gmail.com on behalf of [Merle Jensen](#)
To: [Jennings, Jonathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to dairy industry of Washington State
Date: Friday, October 02, 2015 3:07:28 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Dairy letter.pdf](#)

Inline image 1



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Please note new email address: mjtomato1@gmail.com

October 2, 2015

TO: Jonathan.jennings@ecy.wa.gov

FROM: Dr. Merle H. Jensen

RE: **IMPACT OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON THE DAIRY INDUSTRY**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Dr. Merle H. Jensen. I was raised Whatcom County and reside there on a part-time basis. I am an agriculturalist and have traveled to over 50 different countries consulting with agriculture industry leaders. I received degrees from California State Polytechnic University, Cornell and Rutgers Universities.

I have recently learned that dairymen in my home county are being threatened with new rules that will make it prohibitive for many to continue in this field. Your proposal, as it exists, will wipe out many dairymen and destroy this way of life and their family livelihood. This disturbs me, especially when I look at the legitimacy of your proposed changes.

It is quite clear that your proposal has two basic flaws:

1. It appears that you are making unwarranted assumptions without scientific support. Where are the scientific facts on which you are making this proposal?
2. You are not treating all segments of agriculture uniformly. Why is it that the berry and potato farmers have not been included as well as others who are dependent on nitrate fertilization in growing and producing food commodities?

I am not against DOE but I am against the inequitably and unfair treatment of one particular group. Have you asked yourselves who or what will replace these dairies should you move forward with your proposal?

Having over 55 years of experience in working with farmers and agriculturalists, I am committed to speaking out on this issue. The farmers of Washington State need to be heard and their concerns addressed. Unless there are significant changes made to your current proposal, which could be done in coordination with farmers representing the area(s) concerned, I plan to join with the farmers to launch a campaign and use every means available to see that needed changes occur. These changes must be realistic, scientifically based and be fair and equitable to not only the whole of agriculture but also to the communities which agriculture supports. Your proposal, as it currently stands, would strike a devastating financial blow to the industry. I stand ready to assist in whatever way possible to resolve this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.



Merle H. Jensen, Ph.D.
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