

10-1-2015

Dear Director Bellon:

Farmers aren't always very supportive of regulations, but we have to admit that the Dairy Nutrient Management Act has turned out to be a good thing. It's taken a lot of work from us farmers, a lot of discussion but for the most part, we realize that it has made changes we needed to keep our water clean. We know our water is cleaner now from our testing, even though some are still blaming us for the shellfish beds.

What we don't understand is why Ecology would rip this regulation up and start over with something that makes no sense, will cost those few farmers who survive it hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars. Why? Some have said it is because Ecology wants to regulate farmers. We can see how well they can do that with their regulations that shows they want to manage whatever a farmer does from their offices in Olympia.

I hope someone can explain why one state agency just throws out what another state agency has spent twenty years doing and doing well. I am sending a copy of this to our elected representatives and I hope they will work hard to get your agency in line, stop this duplication of effort, and let farmers farm.

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