

From: [Jay Gordon -wsdf](#)
To: [Jennings, Jonathan \(ECY\)](#); don.c.tillman@gmail.com
Subject: comment letter on Behalf of Don and Anne Tillman
Date: Monday, September 28, 2015 9:32:11 AM
Attachments: [tillman dairy.doc](#)

Jon,

Attached is a comment letter that Don and Anne Tillman asked me to forward to you. Internet and email isn't their forte so they asked that i type it up and send it to you. Don is included on this email.

Thank you for considering their thoughts.

Jay Gordon

Director, Policy & Government Affairs

Washington State Dairy Federation

Elma, Washington

360-482-3485

September 11th, 2015

Washington Department of Ecology
c/o Jon Jennings
PO Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

Dear Mr. Jennings,

This permit as written would make us reconsider our future as farmers.

In the past few years, we have had a couple of offers to sell to developers. But our family has farmed this place for a long time and selling to a developer is not something we could bring ourselves to do.

My dad first came to America in 1903 and worked farmland in Mount Vernon until he bought our place here in Arlington. He cleared the land I have been farming here my whole life and selling the land to developers is just not what we want to do. We are a family operation with three generations working the farm at times.

But getting a permit, with all the paperwork, rules and requirements is just not something we will do.

It is sad to think we are given so little credit after all the work we have done to produce food, improve the soil, worked with the Conservation Service. We have planted green belts, we have tried to be good neighbors.

We have grown food for years and it now seems that what Ecology wants is lifestyle farms and hobby farms rather than a real farm that produces real food.

This permit seems to be based on nothing but assumptions. I don't understand how Ecology can convict us on assumptions.

I don't normally write letters. I don't recall ever doing something like this...I am 82 years old and have never done anything like this before. But I view this so seriously I am willing to work through submitting my comments. We are the last dairy farm in our area, I remember when there were 73 dairy farms in the Arlington Heights and Lake Riley area.

This is serious and would be the end of dairy farming in our area, as we are the last ones.

Don and Anne Tillman
Tillman Dairy
Arlington, Washington