

Dear Director Bellon:

10/1/2015

Add my family's voice to the many you are no doubt hearing from on your Department's attempt to take over our family farm.

We are still having a hard time considering the degree to which those sitting in some taxpayer paid fancy office in Olympia think they know how to farm better than we do. Farmers here have been doing a great job of taking care of the environment and you know we can prove it. Your own water quality tests show the improvement we have worked so hard for.

But we also have to survive as farmers in a difficulty global marketplace. Do you know New Zealand just announced a 27% decrease in milk prices? Are you aware of the global over-production leading to another serious down turn for dairies. It is hard enough to keep our costs down and figure out every way to save money and get more efficient without some power-hungry bureaucrat coming around and telling us we have to have an engineer draw up plans for us even if we need to do something quick to protect water. Or tell us that the weather forecasts around here are completely accurate up to three days out. Or if we want to upgrade a falling down building we have to hold public hearings.

Can you possibly understand sometimes we wonder what people over there are thinking? One thing we do know. That with these kinds of people in positions of power and coming up with this kind of crazy attempts to manage our farms without knowing the slightest thing about them, our elected representatives need to know exactly what is going on and consider this when it comes to questions of how much to fund your department.

Best regards,

*Art VanderWaal*

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