

Dear Director Bellon:

October 1, 2015

A few years ago we were told we needed to put in manure lagoons. They would help protect water quality. We had to pay for them and the cost of this rule and the other nutrient rules put quite a few of our smaller farmers out of business.

Now we are told those lagoons aren't good enough. They are the problem. All the money we spent is now going to cost us a whole lot more money. Your Department says now our lagoons have to have double plastic liners. What do you know about these? Do you know they leak too, or don't you believe the US Department of Agriculture.

What do you bet a few years from now a whole new bunch of bureaucrats who never even looked at a lagoon will read something in the newspaper about plastic lagoons leaking and decide we all have to rip them out and do something new and more expensive.

I wish you would come here and talk to farmers and get an idea just how they are feeling about all these new regulations and what you are doing to us.

7026 noon rd Robert G Van Weerdhuizen  
Everton Wash Robert G Van Weerdhuizen  
98247 9/30/15

Dear Maia Bellon:

Oct 2, 2015

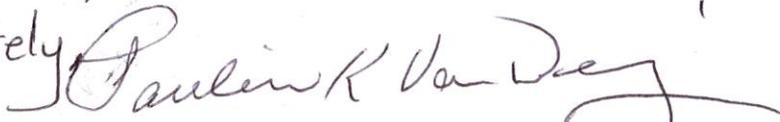
This is regarding your new dairy permit.

I heard one of our farm leaders say they were shocked and disappointed when they saw what your permit writers were thinking. That doesn't even begin to express what farmers are really thinking about this.

This was supposed to be a discharge permit and your staff said it was supposed to protect us against lawsuits. Are they kidding? This will attract so many lawsuits and complaints against farmers. Somebody is going to call your office and say, do you know so and so farmer is putting manure on his field although I think the weather forecast three days ago said there might be rain?

Another thing we can't possibly understand. We have these pipes and risers in our field to distribute our nutrients. What we're told is that we won't be able to change anything, or even fix an emergency repair to them without getting some big city engineer to come out and make drawings for you. Then we have to wait 180 days, probably for everyone to come off vacation, so your office can have a look and say it's OK or change something. What are those people thinking? This is supposed to help the environment?

Maia - please stop by to visit  
anytime, and to see things firsthand.

Sincerely, 

Pauline K Van Weerdhuizen  
Honorary Whatcom County Dairy Women  
7026 Noon Rd.  
Everson, WA 98247  
360-354-3549