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Pasco, WA 99301RECEIVED  
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November 26, 2008

Mr. Ken Slattery  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Lacey, WA 98516DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

Dear Ken,

We are writing in regard to your letter of November 12 to Easterday Ranches, one of our members.

We appreciate the concerns raised in the letter. We also believe the stockwater provision in the "exempt well" section of RCW 90.44.050 to be broader than you represented in the letter. We concur with the legal analysis done by Mr. Buchal on behalf of the Columbia Snake River Irrigator Association in support of this position.

Due to the statewide significance of this issue and the precedential nature the conclusion of the matter will have, we ask that Ecology work with Easterdays and us as well as other agricultural groups to bring about an equitable and sound legal outcome.

The economic viability of the state's number one industry rests on our ability to secure reliable water supplies. We hope you will join us in keeping agriculture strong and vibrant, especially at a time when the rest of the economy is so fragile.

Thanks for your timely consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
John Stuhlmiller  
Director of Government Relations  
Washington Farm BureauStacy Gilmore  
Franklin County Farm Bureau~~cc: Director Jay Manning~~

Direct: 360.357.9975, Toll Free: 800.331.3276

Postal address: PO Box 8690, Lacey, WA 98509

Street address: 975 Carpenter Road NE, Suite 301, Lacey, WA 98516