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I'd like to thank everyone for being here and I understand that I missed half of you already. Several of you ran for cover after looking at this afternoon's agenda and seeing that a regulator was going to be here, so I appreciate those of you who had the endurance to hang around.

First of all, let me introduce myself. I'm the air pollution control officer for Yakima, I only speak for the Yakima Clean Air Authority. But I think that much of what I'm going to say will affect you wherever you are in the states of Washington, Oregon or Idaho.

I'd like to start out by saying that the bottom line is going to be affected by how these regulations affect you. Your bottom line is going to be affected by how regulations affect you. Don't forget to include that in your cost analyses as you develop your various programs on whether it's anaerobic digesters or any other kind of program. Regulations have become a real part of our lives.

I speak from personal experience on both sides of the fence. I'm a regulator but I'm also an entrepreneur. I have businesses in California and Utah and in Washington State, and so I sign both sides of the paycheck, I receive one and sign the back, and I issue some and I sign the fronts of them. I want you to know that I understand the situation that each of you, as businessmen and women, have to live with. This agency attempts very diligently to address the issues of the business community, and I'm pleased to be able to report to you that we have been successful in working with most of our businesses which we regulate here. We have a pleasant and ongoing relationship with Steve George, with the Yakima Valley Dairy Federation, as well as other elements of our business community here. We're still regulators and we'll still comply and cause compliance with all the laws that apply to all of us, but that's fundamentally what we're all about.

I was going to read 47 pages of material here for you but I decided that might be a little bit much. So I condensed everything down to a 3x5 card. I hope that satisfies most of you. I want to again congratulate the organizers.

I had the great privilege of being involved in a number of alternative power generation projects in the State of California when I worked there years ago. I think that a lot of the work that you're being approached with today has already been done. The question is whether you can get the numbers to line up. Some of you are more or less affected by the regulations that I

represent, that is, air quality regulations. But let me just go down a couple of them before I get to the subject that was on my line on the agenda.

Boilers, power generation plants, storage and activities all may be subject in one form or another by an air quality agency. The subject that was listed for me is odors. As you know, the public's expectation is changing. Their tolerance levels are being significantly changed as we continue to evolve. New people not accustomed to agricultural activities move in next door to you. Your organizations, your businesses are growing. Therefore they contribute more to the problems that tend to be an irritation to some of your neighbors.

The two largest contributors to pollution from your industry are dust and odors. Fortunately here in Yakima we've been able to deal with most of the dust problems very effectively. Because of the uniqueness of the Washington State law, we're unable to deal effectively with the odor issues. And, in fact, many in the community feel that they are being stonewalled by your industry. I work with a lot of you around here and so I know that you're doing things differently. I know that you're making progress, I know that you're taking seriously your role in a vibrant community. I know that you're taking these things seriously, but the public by and large doesn't appreciate your efforts.

So I believe that one of the key ingredients here is to open up ourselves and have better dialogue with our community. As you elect to make these changes including perhaps changing your method of operation, expanding your facilities or whatever, I do believe it would be to your great benefit to involve your community in those plans so they understand what's coming along. The interactive dialogue is going to significantly improve our relationship. I think that's a proven fact. Please pay attention to that.

As I mentioned to you, the odors issue in the State of Washington is difficult. You have an agricultural exemption. The test if someone complains about odors in the State of Washington is difficult to meet. We have to bring in, in a timely fashion, at the time the incident occurred, third party experts to testify that the business is following best management practices for your industry in your locale. Well, if everyone is doing everything in a particular kind of a way, guess what the best management practices are, irrespective of the public's perception of a problem. You follow me there? The public's perception of the problem is what's pushing many people's trigger finger or hot buttons or however you want to put this. So, I ask as you change your business or as

your community is changed around you that you attempt to address this issue in a more public sort of a way.

Now, I receive the largest number of odor complaints currently for my jurisdiction against feedlots, dairies, other kinds of chicken farmers, and other sorts of activities like this. We have people in the field who have been trained to evaluate odors, to be able to discern from a level 1, 2, 3 or 4 (4 typically is the one that causes a gag reflex). We go out and respond to all these numerous complaints every year and we have not yet issued a citation to any of the dairy people on odors in Yakima County, even though we have hundreds and some years over a thousand complaints.

Why is that? Because the perception of your neighbor is that you have a real big problem and the evaluation of an agency responsible to investigate these issues is that we don't find a problem significant enough to issue a citation. This is causing frustration in the community. And I've had to withdraw from some of the meetings and discussions that are going on among your industry here in Yakima because I have people looking over my shoulder all the time and they want me to fully disclose the minutes, the actions, the report in great detail, and some of the things that you're planning for the future to address these sorts of things. The concern I have on your behalf is that once we say that we're dealing with some of these problems, they tend to be an acknowledgement that a problem does exist, which then feeds the critics. You follow me here? This is a dangerous circle, but you have to understand that this does exist here.

So I'm asking all of you to continue to stay this course. Do what you can. As you start to contain and manage your waste streams, you're going to deal with the major component of the public's concerns and that is odors from your facilities. Because you're going to contain them, you're going to process them, you'll divide them, separate the solids from the liquids, you're going to create gases, you're going to contribute to the community in a more holistic perspective. We will all benefit from your work, your investment, and reward from your changes in the way that you do things.

I'm not here to criticize you, I'm not here to pose tremendously fantastic new models and pictures. You guys are doing the right thing by looking at this. I'm not here to advocate anything in particular other than, I think that you're on the right track, and I encourage you. We put money out for demonstration programs. We will support you in pursuing grants to assist in these things,

and I think that we can meld a wonderful relationship among ourselves here if we really work on this aggressively. But I do think that the clock is ticking.

I have a five-member board. It takes three of those board members to make a change in policy. And we have legislatures and county commissioners, boards of commissioners, and other kinds of boards around that have regulations, and all it takes is a majority to change the paradigm from what we have today to what it might be. I think it's in all of our interests to do those things so we can demonstrate steady progress toward addressing these problems whether we want to accept them ourselves or not. They are a perception and we have to deal with a perception one way or the other. I hope I've not said anything that has offended anyone, but that's the way I see it.

There were two other points I wanted to make here—I guess I made one of them. From an air quality perspective your permits will include your boilers, your generators, and any other point sources that you create as you change your operations. And the applicability of these laws will be different when you start moving into those more industrialized kinds of processes than they are today where you are by and large covered by the agriculture protection laws. That's one thing I repeat myself on.

The other thing is that I want you to work closely with your own regulatory agencies as you consider these changes so that you can be prepared for that. I guess I'll emphasize the first point once again. You should include the cost of compliance in your economic analysis as you consider the various ways that you can approach this issue.