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To: ECY RE WQ CAFO PERMIT
Subject: Comment

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As someone who has commented on other issues to Ecology before, I feel that Darlene Schanfald's recently submitted comment on the CAFO issue dramatically represents me, so I repeat it below. I was deeply offended to read the department's arrogant recent reply to all the comments submitted on its renewal of its own sewage sludge land application program. Too often you dismissed solid scientific input as "opinion," implying that you own practice has the monopoly on empirical fact. So, what can one say to you except what you see below of Darlene's? You need to see it again:

"Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) General Permits Reissuance Public Comment Period

Why are we having this conversation about permitting CAFOs? This and other permit "input "opportunities" are a waste of the public's time and Ecology's time and budget; i.e. public funds. And personally, I would be selling out myself by participating in responding to permit issues as laid out.

CAFO is a major polluting industry and WA State should be cancelling permits for CAFOs of any kind – land and water (e.g. industrial aquaculture CAFOs-of-the-sea). Ecology, as an agency, needs to turn itself around and actually protect the environment. We need a director of Ecology that promotes ecology, not industries.

CAFOs emit methane which damages the air and the damaged air circulates globally. CAFOs, damage water bodies and aquifers. Permits are an aide to continue the pollution. And think cumulative effects.

This is a cruel industry. CAFO treatment of animals is inhumane and unethical. Crowding the animals and making them graze on food abnormal to their natural dietary needs, including forcing them to graze on sewage-laden fields, stresses and "toxifies" the animals. The toxic animals and their meat and milk are fed to humans. What Ecology permits is damage-to-human-health and an increase in human health problems and medical costs. Has staff no conscience? No compassion?

Ecology takes money to clean up Puget Sound, yet permits it to be polluted. We have a global meltdown and this industry, around the country, significantly contributes to global warming. It is perilous enough without the WA State Department of Ecology wanting to permit the worsening of the already dire situation.

Ecology seems to be in business to support industries. Does Ecology staff not read the news on the damage the CAFO industries cause, as well as other industries it permits?

How can this agency, in any degree of good consciousness, continue as it is? It should be changing RCWs and WACs to protect the health and welfare of our natural resources, wildlife and public health.

Stop the cruelty. End permitting CAFOs."