

Chelsea Morris

Washington Department of Ecology

PO Box 47696

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Dear Chelsea, As the CEO of Mercer Ranches, Inc. located in both Benton and Klickitat counties I oppose the CAFO rules as drafted and concur with the comments of Okanogan, Thurston and Yakima County Farm Bureaus. We need to work with those who raise livestock on a small scale providing locally sourced food. Applying CAFO standards to small operations, will be devastating to local food production and our overall food security. Ecology must recognize the work of the Voluntary Stewardship Program and local conservation districts. Instead of regulating, Ecology needs to encourage participation in these voluntary programs, proven to protect water quality.

Sincerely,

Jerry Fitzgerald

August 17, 2022