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Factory farms produce a lot of waste. Mega-dairies in Washington produce tens of billions of pounds of waste a year. The permit the Department of Ecology has proposed is inadequate to prevent further pollution of our increasingly scarce water.

The draft permit doesn't even require basic technology that will prevent pollution from reaching our waters or sufficient monitoring to actually determine whether operations are polluting.

Instead, this permit allows factory farms to dump toxic cow poop on land in vast excess of what plants actually need, which introduces untreated waste into our rivers and groundwater. Even worse, the proposed permit hides the factory farms' data from the public, leaving us in the dark about how much waste is being dumped onto our lands and into our waters.

We need a permit that can protect us through the next five years of our climate crisis. We cannot suffer another five years of this industry's unchecked pollution, especially those of us who live in the Yakima Valley whose drinking water is already dangerously contaminated.