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To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to encourage the Department of Ecology to enact effective Concentrated Animal Feed Operation (CAFO) waste regulations through the general permits reissuance.

CAFOs are a major contributor to growing climate issues as well as clean water issues including harmful algae blooms and acidification.

Here are my major concerns:

- Harmful algae blooms, caused by CAFOs, not only pose a risk to the ecosystem and wildlife, they also pose a health risk to humans and local communities.
- Pollutants discharged without permitted regulations will directly violate Washington State Law, and the federal Clean Water Act, and pose a threat to multiple species protected under the Endangered Species Act including wild Chinook salmon and the critically endangered Southern Resident killer whales.
- Wild salmon and steelhead trout depend on cold, clean, and oxygenated water to survive. Harmful algae blooms and acidification caused by pollutants from CAFOs can negatively impact water quality and conditions. This will impact all species that depend on these fish, as well as tribes and local communities.
- The tiny-shelled marine snail (Pteropods) are among the marine creatures most vulnerable to ocean acidification. Pteropods are an important food source for Pacific salmon, therefore the loss of pteropods means fewer Chinook salmon which the endangered Southern Resident killer whales (protected under the Endangered Species Act) need to survive.
- Killer whales are at the top of the food chain. Pollution caused by CAFOs will work its way into the ecosystem, causing irreversible damage and contributing to the ongoing issues facing the endangered Southern Resident killer whales.
- Effective CAFO waste regulation would promote the well-being of Washington residents who depend on groundwater for drinking, as well as all those who depend on Washington's waterways and natural resources for recreation, economic prosperity, education, and quality of life.

I encourage the Department of Ecology to fulfill its legal obligations with regard to the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act by making the following changes to the CAFO General Permit Reissuance:

1. Implement best management practices based on science, which includes mandatory riparian buffers
2. Implementation of all known and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment for existing manure lagoons and compost areas
3. Completely prevent violations of surface and groundwater quality standards
4. Implement monitoring practices which may include visual inspections and soil sampling to ensure compliance
5. Provide public participation in the development of site-specific nutrient management plans
6. Consider the effects of climate change