

Richard Ranum

Hi Chelsea,

The department is poking a hornet's nest. I have four chickens -- that's it. My response to this rule is to write all of my representatives and make it clear that this may seem like a small issue, but to those with a few chickens, this is a war against an incredibly stupid rule. I and thousands of households, your neighbors, are going to find unanimous consensus over this and the blowback on DOE will undermine its credibility and, my prediction is you will be forced by the politicians wishing to be re-elected to revise this rule so that my four chickens and other reasonable small producers are not lumped into the rules for 25,000 laying hens. Prepare to be questioned and admonished by the politicians representing the citizens of Thurston County and other counties in Washington state. This is gross overreach and invasion of individual property rights. Will you come for our gardens next by limiting nitrogen? Nitrogen: 70% of the air we breathe.

Permits for four chickens are absurd! You may say "oh you don't have to worry about four chickens", however, I worry about poor regulations that may be applied capriciously. I predict you will change your regulations before the politicians get involved. We'll see.

Rick Ranum