

Craig Herter

I am both pleased and amazed that so many people have taken the time to comment on the Department of Ecology's proposed rule amendment. I think this should demonstrate to the Department of Ecology that this is a matter of vital interest to the rural citizens of the state of Washington of which I am one. It was only through the efforts of the Whatcom Well Water group that I was even made aware of these proposed changes. How many others are not aware of this and that will be directly affected by it? I do not know but I suspect there are many.

This a very complex issue that must involve a number of different areas of science, regrettably I am not an expert in any of the sciences. I have read and understood to a large degree a document prepared by Skip Richards that appears to have already been submitted to you. I certainly cannot add anything to his treatise other than to echo his detailed analysis and support his conclusions.

On a more basic level I oppose the proposed 500 gallon per day withdrawal limit as being insufficient for basic rural living needs as commented by many others. The current withdraw limit of 3,000 gallons per day should be left in place.

I oppose the metering of private wells as both impractical and unnecessary as well as being an overreach of governmental authority on private well owners who bear the expense of drilling and maintaining the infrastructure of these well.

Finally, I oppose the proposal to limit outdoor watering use to 1/12th of an acre. A significant part of the rural lifestyle is the growing of food for personal consumption as well as watering of poultry and livestock for personal consumption.

The final rule amendment should not be adopted until it has been modified to the satisfaction of those that it directly affect, the rural citizens of the state of Washington and more specifically the residents of WRIA 1.

Thank you,

Craig Herter