

Mark DeRuyter

My name is Mark DeRuyter. I am reaching out because of the new suggested language put anerobic digestors in jeopardy due to Department of Ecology's new proposed rules that would exclude dairy from qualifying for renewable biogas energy projects in Washington State. We need at least 2, 10-year renewable crediting periods for dairy methane emission reduction projects.

As someone who has worked the last five years on developing a state-of-the-art methane capture facility that responsibly handles conversion of manure to sustainable fuels, I can assure you that this new language will not only hurt our trajectory as a state to reduce our GHG emissions. But it will destroy any existing and projected infrastructure to modernize dairies, energy grid buildout and capital investment in this state. All investors in this space require a 20 year timeline (not a 15 year as is being suggested) for their investment and no dairy can afford to build their own methane capture with this kind of limitation either (no credits=no investment).

Ecology should ensure credit is provided for a longer period of time for ALL on-farm environmental projects so we can work with the State on shared environmental projects and outcomes such as GhG reduction, renewable energy production and food waste recycling. We can choose to innovate and lead the world by example with investment in cutting edge technologies that usher in new renewable fuel sources or we can stop the progress we've already made.