

## Anonymous Anonymous

My name is Jean Mendoza and I'm the executive director for Friends of Toppenish Creek, a nonprofit in the Yakima Valley.

I would like to bring your attention to one big problem. Concentrated animal feeding operations damage the environment. They are not sustainable in the long term, and I hope the Ecology will look closely at the adverse impacts of subsidizing and supporting capital dairies in our state. I'm Hoping Ecology will take a broad view of how the low carbon fuel standards impact this industry.

The Ecology only looks at the benefits of capturing manure methane. The agency fails to account for the increased damage that occurs when dairies increased herd size in order to make more money from manure methane. There's clear evidence that dairies in Wisconsin and California have consolidated and enlarged when manure methane biodigesters are introduced due to badly written clean fuel policies.

With more cows, there will be more volatile organic compounds in the ambient air and this will lead to higher ozone levels. Ozone levels in the Yakima Valley and the Tri-City area are already near current safety levels with occasional exceedances. Ozone is not only damaging to human health, but ozone in the air also damages crops and leads to decreased yields.

And this is very important in Central Washington where we're economically dependent on agriculture. More cows means increased withdrawal of groundwater, and this is a big problem throughout Eastern Washington where the aquifers are falling and there's very little recharge.

Please look at the big picture and reconsider how this rule is currently written. Would subsidizing the dairy industry increase cow numbers and increase environmental damage when there are too many cows?

Thank you.